

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND China Overland Trade Report.

VOL. XLII.]

HONGKONG, WEDNESDAY, 11TH DECEMBER, 1895.

No. 24.

CONTENTS.

Epitome of the Week, &c.	137
Leading Articles:—	
The Political Situation in the Far East	138
The Decline of British Trade and its Causes	138
The Military Contribution Question	139
Mr. Whitehead and the Government	139
The Private Vehicles Licensing Ordinance	140
The Drainage System and Fever	141
Inquiry into the Conditions of British Trade with China	141
The <i>Strathnevis</i> Safe	141
Railways in China.—Imperial Decree	141
Reported Opening of the West River	142
The Light and Pass Regulations	142
A New Appointment for Sir Fielding Clarke	142
Hongkong Legislative Council	142
The Military Contribution	145
The Supreme Court Funds Ordinance	145
Mr. Justice Ackroyd's Pension	145
The Amount Paid in Personal Emoluments &c.	146
The Stamp Ordinance Amendment Bill	146
Affairs in South Formosa	146
Disappearance of a Registered Local Letter	147
Forged Bank Notes in Hongkong	147
The Pearl Robbery.—Alleged Miscarriage of Justice	147
Royal Hongkong Yacht Club	147
Cricket:—	
Scotland v. The World	148
Football:—	
H.K.F.C. v. C. Company R.B.	148
Hongkong Rifle Association	148
Correspondence:—	
The Light and Pass Regulations	148
Light in the <i>China Mail</i>	148
The Water Supply	149
Another "City of Dreadful Night"	149
The International Cotton Manufacturing Co., Limited	149
Why Railways have not been built in China	149
Thirteen Hundred Reformers in China	150
The <i>Edgar</i> Disaster	151
Tiff (Convention) Between Great Britain and Japan	111
Affairs in Next Hupah	152
Hongkong and Port News	152
Commercial	153
Shipping	156

BIRTH.

On the 26th Nov., at the Royal Naval Hospital, Yokohama, the wife of Surgeon MATTHEW O'REGAN, R.N., of a daughter.

ARRIVALS OF MAILS.

The American mail of the 13th November arrived, per P. M. steamer *Peru*, on the 10th December (27 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

It is reported in Chinese official circles that the West River is shortly to be opened.

Attempts are to be made to improve the rice of Cochin-China by introducing seed from Burmah.

News has been received that the overdue steamer *Strathnevis*, from Tacoma to Yokohama, has broken her tail shaft and lost her propeller and is making her way back to Victoria, B.C., under sail.

The German steamer *Deuteros* has had to return to Bangkok owing to a collision with a lighter as she was leaving. She had a hole knocked in her amidships near the discharge valve, and is now being repaired at the Bangkok docks.

Sir Fielding Clarke, Chief Justice of Hongkong, has accepted the appointment of Chief Justice of Jamaica.

The *Lillian J. Robbins* has been dismantled off Cape St. James and towed in to Saigon. Her repairs will take some months to effect.

It is reported from Korea that a royal decree has been issued annulling the order of 12th August and restoring her title and dignity to the deceased Queen.

The Shanghai native papers state that the Viceroy Chang Chih-tung has given the laying of the Shanghai-Soochow railway to three Belgian engineers, who will have the sole control of the building of the line.

Mr. Byron Brenan, Her Majesty's Consul at Canton, has been appointed by the home Government a special commissioner to inquire into the conditions of British trade with China and the possibilities of its development.

An Imperial decree has been issued sanctioning the construction of a railway from Peking to Tientsin and recommending the formation of a Company by merchants for the construction of a line from Peking to Hankow.

On the anniversary of the coronation of the King of Siam on the 16th November His Majesty conferred the Order of the Phra Chula Chom Klao on Madame du Plessis de Richelieu, the first European lady recipient of the distinction. The order of Phra Chula Chom Klao was instituted by the king shortly after coming to the throne, and is the only hereditary honour (although but for one generation) in Siam.

At a meeting of the Committee of the Shanghai Chamber of Commerce the question of extending the privilege of bonded warehouses, which now form a monopoly of the China Merchants' S. N. Co., was discussed, and it was decided that before taking any further action it would be well to get the general opinion of the mercantile community as to the desirability of claiming this extension.

According to the Seoul correspondent of the *Jitsugyo Shimbun*, Mr. Townsend, a merchant of Chemulpo, and agent for the American Trading Company, has proceeded to Ping-yang-do with a mining engineer on a gold prospecting mission. It is stated by the same correspondent that the Korean Government has made a mining concession to the company referred to for a term of twenty years. The mining engineer is said to have favourably reported concerning the prospects of gold mining in the province.

The *China Gazette* says:—People in Shanghai must have noticed of late the strange preference of shroffs and others of that unpleasant ilk for Hongkong and Shanghai Bank notes as compared with Mexican dollars, which they profess to have recently discovered are not nearly so desirable a medium of payment as *Wayfoong* paper. We believe that the reason for this is to create a "corner" in notes and run down the Mexican with a view to future profitable operations, and it is said that the compradores and Chinese banks have come to a distinct understanding on that head amongst themselves. To such an extent has this plan of campaign been carried that already a scarcity of paper money is being felt, and a demand for any considerable number of notes even at the bank itself often means a delay.

A Peking telegram of the 30th November to the *China Gazette* says:—Ratifications of the Commercial Treaty were exchanged here (and in Tokyo) to-day by the Japanese Minister and the Chinese officials appointed to negotiate the Treaty.

At Bangkok there was been trouble between the Gee Hok and Gee Heng secret societies and on the 22nd November a serious riot resulted, which the police were powerless to suppress. A force of 200 marines was despatched to the disturbed district and between seventy and eighty of the rioters were arrested.

The following communicated paragraph appears in the *Foochow Echo*:—Referring to the illegal tax of two cents on a case of kerosine oil, as published in our issue of the 16th November, we are glad to say that the blackmail office was a few days ago abolished through the strong remonstrance of the Consul whose country produces the oil now bought and sold in Foochow, and we venture to say that the Chinese authorities cannot under any plea put forth proclamations any more stopping the Chinese, as they once did, from using such oil under the pretext that it is dangerous. The object of their saying that kerosine oil is dangerous is to try to make a revenue out of this illegal tax, and it remains to be seen if they will resort once more to the same thing, that is, to warn the people against the use of such oil.

With the development of commerce the system of credit in Japan is rapidly improving. Speaking on the subject at a recent Bankers' reunion in Tokyo, Mr. Yamamoto Tatsuo, of the Bank of Japan, expressed surprise at the wonderful increase during the past few years in the amount of credit bills and notes used in business transactions in the capital. The total of the bills and notes discounted at the Clearing House in 1891, the first year of the institution's operation, was 106,000,000 yen. It increased gradually until the amount reached 282,000,000 yen in 1894. There are a large number of banks that have not yet joined the Clearing House, and have their bills exchanged at the Bank of Japan. The average daily amount of bills thus treated at the Bank during the month of October was 110,570 yen in 1893, 189,000 yen in 1894, and 310,000 yen in 1895.—*Japan Mail*.

We translate the following from the *Manila Comercio*:—"According to a telegram received by the business agent of the Philippines Mineral Syndicate, Limited, from Mr. D. H. J. Carnegie, the engineer at the mines, an important discovery has been made of rich mineral, the analysis of which has given a result of twelve and a half ounces to the ton, of which a larger trial will be made by the crushing mill. The thickness of the vein cannot be determined at present, but there is reason to believe that there is abundance of mineral, but it is very refractory and for this reason has to be submitted to the action of fire. In Longos, for its depth, good mineral is met throughout. At San Mauricio a good vein has been discovered giving on analysis ten ounces per ton. We congratulate the shareholders of the Company on such good news." If the expectations raised by the above are realised the shareholders are indeed to be congratulated. The mineral in question we understand to be gold, but that is not mentioned by our contemporary.

THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN THE FAR EAST.

The change in the political situation in the Far East since the war broke out between China and Japan is very strongly marked. Scarcely anything is as it was prior to that conflict. China is no longer a Power to be reckoned with. She is now generally regarded as a huge but flabby Empire held together rather by the mutual jealousies of other countries than by her own powers of cohesion. She is destitute of any army worthy of the name; for with numberless legions of men, she has yet no trained troops that can stand the shock of encounter with disciplined soldiers. Her navy is practically a vanished quantity, for the Nanyang squadron is for the most part a collection of small unarmoured cruisers quite unable to meet the squadrons of the Western Powers, while the Foochow and Canton flotillas are only useful for policing the coasts and keeping down piracy. The corruption of the officials, the main cause of the collapse of their defences when engaged with the Japanese forces, has not been affected by the long roll of reverses, and the same evils infest the mandarinat as before the war. There seems literally no moral health in China; the taint of corruption hangs over every class, penetrates every strata of society. No sign of improvement, no appearance of a desire to wash and be clean, to accomplish a moral regeneration, can be traced in any section or class of the people. Attempts are being made in a perfunctory and casual kind of way to reorganise the navy, which may by and bye assume more concrete shape, and efforts will undoubtedly be put forth to reconstitute the land forces, such as they are, but it will be some time before China will be able to command respect much less excite fear.

This being generally recognised, the Western Powers have become uneasy lest some state, more aggressive than others, should quietly profit by the weakness and inertness of the Peking Government to secure a footing on the soil of the Celestial Empire. It is alleged that the fear of this prompted the three Powers, Russia, France, and Germany, to intervene to prevent Japan acquiring territory in Manchuria, and ever since the conclusion of peace an uneasy feeling has prevailed that some Power or other is seeking for concessions from China which shall give the concessionaire a hold over the decrepit Empire. The foreign squadrons, which during the recent war were greatly strengthened, have not been cut down to their normal strength. On the contrary, some of them have even been increased. The Russian Government are sending out additions to their already formidable fleet, which will soon comprise four ironclads, four armoured cruisers, one third class cruiser, five sloops, and three gun-boats, of a slightly greater total tonnage than the British squadron in these waters. The British Government, which some time since withdrew the *Crescent*, *Gibraltar*, *Pallas*, and the *Pigeon*, have lately decided to retain the *Edgar*, *Spartan*, and *Aeolus* on the strength of the squadron, and are sending out the cruiser *Immortalité* to replace the *Mercury* and the *Narcissus* to relieve the obsolete *Caroline*. They are evidently in no panic, but they as evidently deem the situation to be less settled and matters in China generally to be more precarious than formerly. The French Government, which also reinforced their squadron in China, are not only maintaining the additions but propose to send out more vessels. Germany, who formerly was content with keeping one

or two cruisers and a gunboat on the station part of the year, doing duty also in other portions of the great Pacific, now maintains quite a formidable squadron in Chinese waters. Lastly the United States, after resting satisfied for years with representation by a few obsolete wooden vessels, now sports the stars and stripes on a large armoured cruiser and several modern ships of considerable speed and armament.

Like the fleets gathered in Levantine waters watching developments in the Sultan's dominions, the foreign squadrons in the Far East are gathered for something more than the mere protection of foreign lives and property. They are here to watch events in China, Japan, and Korea; they are waiting to see what is the next move in the game that has now been going on for years to secure predominance in the Central Kingdom. They represent the anxiety of each great Power not to be left in the cold if by any chance there should ensue a breaking of the porcelain. Most of them are ready, no doubt, to collect the chips, and those who do not covet possession are doubtless anxious to assist in mending fractures. No one Power desires to provoke war; it is even possible that no one Power wishes to acquire any exclusive benefit; but there is an absence of perfect trust in each other that compels all of them to assume an attitude of distrust. Nor do they trust China. They recognise that in this Empire which scarcely even boasts possession of one capable official now Li HUNG-CHANG has lost prestige and power, foreign interests are not safe from attack, and that it may be necessary to maintain by force the rights acquired by Treaty. For some time to come, therefore, the political situation in China is likely to continue unstable and may become complicated. It is probable, however, that the Powers have a sufficient general understanding to prevent any chances of a quarrel unless some new and wholly unexpected development takes place. There certainly seems for the moment no cause for alarm. England and Russia appear to be good friends, though the latter is obviously using France as a convenient tool to further her ends, and Germany is content to remain a quiet observer of events. It is far from our purpose to sow discord or even to suggest suspicion, but we hope that the British Government, while giving other Powers due credit for pacific intentions, will keep a bright lookout for all contingencies.

THE DECLINE OF BRITISH TRADE AND ITS CAUSES.

The British Government has become thoroughly alive to the importance of fostering British trade with the colonies and foreign countries. A despatch has been sent to all Colonial Governors requesting reports on the displacement of British goods by articles of foreign manufacture and the reasons thereof; Mr. BYRON BREXAN has been appointed to conduct a similar inquiry as regards trade with China; and presumably like appointments have been made in other countries. Perhaps one of the reasons for the stagnation of British trade may be that British goods no longer excel those of foreign countries to the extent they did in former days, owing to the advance made by foreign manufacturers and artisans. Not long ago a commercial mission visited the ironworks in Belgium on behalf of certain English interests, and their report was that the goods of that country did not rely solely on cheapness to secure a market, but that they were really good articles and that in many respects the factories were con-

ducted on better lines than in England. So far as that point is concerned, the Government can afford little or no assistance and British manufacturers and artisans must rely on their own enterprise and exertions to regain and maintain the front rank of industrial excellence.

But if the Continent can turn out excellent goods when required, it is also still willing to turn out shoddy and fraudulent imitations of British goods that have acquired a reputation worth trading on, and the markets in Hongkong and China are flooded with such goods, for there is practically no protection for trade marks and correct descriptions such as is afforded by the Merchandise Marks Act. In Hongkong we have such an Act, nominally, but it is practically ineffective, as there is no machinery to work it. Fraudulently marked goods may be brought into the colony in any quantity, or may be marked after arrival, unless the law is put in force by private individuals whose interests are affected. No record is kept of the goods arriving and leaving the colony, their origin or destination, such as would enable merchants to ascertain which lines of goods were gaining ground and which losing it. Knowledge of that kind would keep traders on the alert, but as it is they have to work in the dark. Nearly half the trade of China passes through this colony, being entered in the Chinese Customs Returns as imports from and exports to Hongkong, but owing to the absence of any trade statistics at this port all record of the countries with which this large trade is conducted is lost and no one can say how much is British, how much German, how much American, or how much French. An attempt has lately been made by the Harbour Master to keep a record of the gross trade of the colony, which is useful for colonial purposes, as a barometer to show whether the colony itself is flourishing or not, but for the purpose of differentiating the various lines of trade and affording information to the home manufacturer and merchant it is useless. Some years ago an attempt was made to pass a Bill providing for the keeping of trade statistics here, but although it secured a large measure of support the opposition to it was too strong and the measure had to be abandoned. Many of those who opposed it did so on the ground that it would be an infringement of the freedom of the port and that it would engender a feeling of insecurity amongst the Chinese, who might perhaps be subjected to squeezes by their own mandarins in consequence of the compulsory disclosure of their business; but the strongest opposition came from those interested in trade of a doubtful character and who foresaw a more strict enforcement of the law against forged trade marks. We have no reason to suppose that the balance of public opinion has been reversed since that time and are perfectly aware that the view we advocate is an unpopular one, but from the time the agitation was started in these columns some twelve years ago up to the present time our opinion that one of the most urgent requirements of British trade in the Far East is accurate statistics of the trade passing through this colony has never wavered. Without such statistics it is impossible accurately to diagnose all the diseases from which British trade in this part of the world is suffering. One thing that is damaging British trade, however, stands out conspicuously, and that is the bounty which British shipowners give to foreign trade by carrying goods from foreign countries at lower rates than those charged for British goods. It is high time

legislation was adopted to put an end to such unfair and unpatriotic discrimination. We have on previous occasions drawn attention to this important subject, and the opinions then expressed are confirmed and justified by figures which a correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian* has recently given. The Blackburn Chamber of Commerce, when recently urging the despatch of a commercial mission to China, pointed out that since 1885 British exports to China had declined from £8,302,493 to £6,255,318. On the other hand American piece goods exported to China have increased from 429,000 pieces in 1880 to 720,000 in 1894, and the exports from Dutch ports, which were 28,540 pieces in 1891, amounted to 101,185 pieces in 1894. The correspondent of our Manchester contemporary above referred to compares 14lb. sheetings of American make with those of Lancashire and says:—"I find that the average freight from Manchester to Shanghai, via Liverpool and London, is per piece 7.23d., while the average per piece from New York by these two routes is only 3.82d., giving an advantage of 3.41d. in favour of America, or, as in the case of drills, very nearly 3½d. per piece. Competition under these circumstances becomes very difficult, if not impossible, on our part against American manufacturers. The price of Lancashire sheetings and drills of similar quality to the American goods cost, say, 10s. per piece, and the 3½d. difference in freight on the cost, or, say 3 per cent., would be a rate of profit which would be welcomed by Manchester shippers. I desire to call the attention of shippers to one point. Goods are taken from New York, via Liverpool, to Shanghai for 28s. 9d. a ton. If we allow 10s. of this to the New York steamer and for cost of transshipment in Liverpool, it will leave 18s. 9d. for which the Liverpool steamer carries these bales to Shanghai, while the same steamer charges the Manchester shipper for identical goods no less than 47s. 6d. They either, therefore, carry the American goods for less than will pay the steamer, or they charge the Manchester shippers a rate beyond all reason." In the face of figures like these the silver question, important as it is, sinks into comparative insignificance. The combination of British shipowners like a vampire is sucking the lifeblood of British trade, and of all the "rings" recorded in commercial history none has ever worked so prejudicially to trade as the Steamship Conference.

THE MILITARY CONTRIBUTION QUESTION.

(5th December.)

On the motion for the second reading of the Appropriation Bill in the Legislative Council this afternoon the unofficial members will have an opportunity of expressing themselves upon the military contribution question and the recently published despatch of the Secretary of State. In his opening speech the Governor said that as the matter was still *sub judice* he would ask the Council to vote the sum provided in the Estimates subject to such further representations as the unofficial members might hereafter have to make and to such modifications as might hereafter be approved. Since His Excellency uttered those words the decision of the Secretary of State, which is adverse to the claims of the colony, has been received, and it is incumbent on the unofficial members to do their utmost to secure the reversal of a decision so flagrantly unjust. Open discussion in Council is likely

to prove more effective than any protest conveyed by correspondence between the unofficial members and the Governor. And it is a stiff fight that the unofficials will have to brace themselves for. This military contribution question has been dragging on for years, and now, after it has just been, as the home officials imagined, finally disposed of by the labours of an inter-departmental committee, it will be a difficult thing to get it reopened as between the Colonial Office, the War Office, and the Treasury. The colony, however, has a strong case, which must command attention in the long run if it be presented forcibly and incessantly. That Mr. Chamberlain should not respond to the colony's request at the first time of asking is perhaps not surprising, for he will naturally have had the assurance of his permanent officials that the whole matter has been decided after a fair trial before a competent court, if we may so term the inter-departmental committee. And before blaming the Colonial Office it would be well to know whether the local Government called attention at a sufficiently early stage to the point in question or allowed it to slide until after the verdict was given. When it was known that the inter-departmental committee was about to sit and that the percentage principle was to be taken into consideration no time should have been lost in instructing the Colonial Office, as the representative of the colony's interests, on the various points of our case. Possibly the Government may have been as prompt and as explicit as was possible under the circumstances; we know nothing to the contrary; but the public would no doubt like to have an opportunity of forming their own opinion by a perusal of the full correspondence. Even if the colony has been negligent of its own interests it ought to be still possible to secure justice. The Colonial Office despatch is a mere shuffle; courtesy required that something should be said and the official who drafted the despatch has tried to make it appear that the representations made by the Governor in his despatch of the 28th August have received attention, but what it really amounts to is that the Colonial Office does not want to be bothered any more about the matter. The case, however, is quite plain. The understanding was that the Straits and Hongkong should be treated on the same basis, and there is no good reason why they should be treated differently. Both colonies were required to pay, instead of fixed sums in sterling, a percentage of their revenues, namely, seventeen and a half per cent.; but practically there is a great difference in the weight of the burden imposed on the two colonies, because whereas in the Straits there are large municipal revenues that are exempt from the contribution Hongkong is to pay on its full revenue, municipal and general. The Colonial Office now endeavours to soothe our feelings by referring to differences in the circumstances of the two colonies as regards area and revenue, which have no bearing on the question and are evidently put forward as a mere afterthought. It is to be presumed that the point as to Hongkong's municipal revenue being merged in the general revenue was never brought before the inter-departmental committee, for, had it been, that body could not have given a decision so grossly unjust to this colony. Should that prove to be the case it is to be regretted, certainly, and the colony may have itself to blame in some measure, but the unofficial members are in duty bound to try to get matters righted.

(7th December.)

The discussion of the military contribution question by the Legislative Council has been adjourned for a week. In the meantime a despatch by the Governor to the Secretary of State, dated 28th August last, has been published. There is no exception to be taken to the terms of the despatch, but if it is the first in which the unfairness of levying a percentage on the total revenue of the colony was pointed out His Excellency has been rather behind the fair, because the decision at that time had been already arrived at. Perhaps the rules of red tape may be pleaded in extenuation. Until the Governor received the despatch from the Secretary of State informing him of the decision he may have had no official knowledge that the subject was under consideration. If that is the case the Secretary of State is to be blamed for not having asked the local Government for its views; but one neglect cannot be held to excuse another, and His Excellency would have been fully justified, it was indeed his duty, to have laid those views before the Secretary of State without waiting to be asked for them, for it was a matter of common knowledge that the adoption of the percentage principle was possible and its bearing on the case of this colony had been discussed in the public press. His Excellency perhaps could not be expected to foresee that the decision would be arrived at without any reference whatever to himself, but the circumstances would nevertheless have justified some departure from official routine. But it is little use now inquiring who is to blame for the mistakes of the past: what has to be done is to try to remedy them. The officials, though no doubt they will sympathise with the opposition to the unjust exaction, will be bound by official rules to vote for it, so that the battle will have to be carried on by the unofficials, who will no doubt consider it their duty to oppose the vote tooth and nail at all stages.

MR. WHITEHEAD AND THE GOVERNMENT.

The Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD seems to have touched the Government on the raw. His questions are found to be bewildering and vexatious, and we are not surprised at it. The man of Titus Barnacles has always kicked at the interrogatories of the men "who want to know don't you know," and it is a standing mystery to them why they should be troubled with such disagreeable matters. Here is one of Mr. WHITEHEAD's bewildering and vexatious questions. "It is a general rule that when Government property is sold it should be put up to auction, but in the case of the five houses erected as a home for girls, but found unsuitable for the purpose, property estimated by the Director of Public Works to be worth \$21,000 has been sold by private contract for \$8,600. Mr. WHITEHEAD, in his bewildering and vexatious way, wants particulars of the transaction, but the Government cannot see what useful public purpose would be served by laying the correspondence on the table. We should have thought it might have been useful for the Government to have set itself right with the public in a matter of that kind and have avoided possible suspicions that might be engendered by any appearance of trying to keep the details dark. The intelligent observer, however, may perhaps be able to supply the explanation from his own imagination, namely, an erroneous estimate on the part of the Director of Public Works as to the value of the property.

Possibly the buildings, together with the land, represented \$21,000 of public money invested, although the value in the open market was only \$8,600. Other Government buildings if offered for sale would probably yield equally disappointing results. Still, in this particular case, the bewildering and vexatious question remains, why was not the property sold by public auction instead of by private treaty?

The question that appeared to be most vexatious to the Government, however, was one having reference to the recognition of plague services. The question was general in its terms, but was understood to have particular reference to Mr. FRANCIS and the inkstand incident, a very sore point with the Government. Mr. WHITEHEAD, for reasons which did not transpire, wished to withdraw the question, and had received permission from the Governor to do so, but the withdrawal was not allowed without a waspish attack on Mr. WHITEHEAD and Mr. FRANCIS. It is to be regretted, we think, that the question was withdrawn, especially in view of the remarks made by the Governor. "I do it," said His Excellency, referring to his allowance of the withdrawal, "not so much out of consideration for the hon. member as out of regard for Mr. FRANCIS, who has been dangerously ill, and has, I believe, expressed a desire that the correspondence or at all events some of it should not be made public." Had His Excellency had any real consideration for Mr. FRANCIS he would hardly have made those remarks, which are suggestive of evil, for it is to be presumed Mr. FRANCIS would not have objected to the publication of the correspondence unless it had been unfavourable to himself; and that is the point His Excellency appeared desirous of making. Hongkong knows Mr. FRANCIS very well, knows that to his keen intellect and extraordinary energy he unites a hotheaded and impulsive disposition which not unfrequently leads him into indiscretions of speech. In this particular case he was placed on the horns of a dilemma: either he must accept an insult in the form of a silver inkstand or he must commit the breach of manners of suggesting that he was entitled to some higher reward for services rendered voluntarily and as a matter of public spirit. He chose the latter alternative, and expressed his opinion in very plain language. What reply the Secretary of State made has not transpired; it must necessarily have been of an unfavourable character to Mr. FRANCIS, for any man who wishes to argue as to his claim to a distinction at the hands of his sovereign courts an inevitable rebuff; but the publication of the despatch would have made no difference to the popular appraisal of Mr. FRANCIS's merits and might possibly have thrown some light on the question of why his services were passed over. In any case, however, the correspondence could hardly have placed him in such an unfavourable light as the Governor's remarks would make it appear, and if Mr. FRANCIS is in possession of a copy we think it is due to himself that he should publish it. Reverting to the proceedings in Council, we think that the Governor, having given permission for the withdrawal of the question, should have allowed it to be withdrawn without discussion. When the Colonial Secretary rose to a point of order and said notice had not been given it would have been graceful conduct on the part of His Excellency to have replied that he had personally given the permission for withdrawal and to have let the matter end there. The circum-

stances, however, afforded the Government an opening to attack Mr. WHITEHEAD and Mr. FRANCIS on the flank, and the opportunity was not neglected. Neither of the gentlemen suffered much, and Mr. WHITEHEAD will no doubt continue to pursue the abandoned career of a man who puts bewildering and vexatious questions.

THE PRIVATE VEHICLES LICENSING ORDINANCE.

The Licensing of Private Vehicles Ordinance has not been disapproved by Her Majesty, a fact which is not likely to enhance the reputation in this colony of Mr. CHAMBERLAIN, Her Majesty's adviser in the matter. The Ordinance was passed seven months ago, so that it has taken the Secretary of State a long time to make up his mind, for the notification of approval was only published in last Saturday's *Gazette*. It would perhaps be considered embarrassing and vexatious were the Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD, the only member of Council who can be looked upon in the light of a public representative, to ask for the publication of all the correspondence, and if he did so the request would probably be refused, but it would be useful to know on what grounds the decision has been arrived at. In the absence of such information the only conclusion to be arrived at is that Mr. CHAMBERLAIN has thought it more politic to "save the face" of the local Government than to disallow an absurd Ordinance, for a more absurd law has never been enacted in the history of the colony.

The ostensible reason for bringing in the Bill was to regulate Chinese trucks and trolleys, which, being run down the steep streets of the colony, sometimes get beyond the control of the men in charge and become a public danger and nuisance. It is right that means should exist to enable the police to deal with that matter, but these could easily have been provided by requiring every truck and trolley to bear a plate with the owner's name, so that he could be summoned and fined should his vehicle be allowed to get beyond control and rush down the streets at a dangerous speed. The Government, however, determined to bring every one into the net, as the then Acting Attorney-General explained in moving the second reading of the Bill, and so it was made applicable to the people who keep carriages for their own use. Henceforth no one is to be allowed to keep a carriage without the permission of an officer charged with the duty of issuing licences and is liable at any time to have his licence withdrawn or suspended at the whim or caprice of the Government. If it were simply a case of putting a tax on vehicles no objection could be taken as a matter of principle; it would simply be a question of expediency, whether it was necessary or desirable to raise revenue from this source. For our own part, we look upon carriages as a fair subject for taxation, and should the Governor or Colonial Secretary desire to keep one we see no reason why they should not be required to pay twenty-five or fifty dollars a year for the privilege. When the Bill was in the Legislative Council, however, it was stated it was not to be used for the purpose of raising revenue and that the fees would be purely nominal. It must therefore be presumed that there was some ulterior and undisclosed motive in making the regulation of the truck traffic an excuse for making the keeping of vehicles whether for trade or pleasure dependent upon official goodwill.

We do not for a moment suppose that there was any definite intention in the mind of the Government of putting the screw on traders who might become obnoxious to them, but as a matter of fact the Ordinance gives the Government the power of so using it and it would require a very trustful disposition to say that there is no probability of its being so used. Old residents will remember that Governor HENNESSY, being displeased with the directors of the Dock Company in connection with a certain matter, tried to confiscate the Company's steam tug *Fame*, nominally for a technical error in connection with the non-renewal of her register. What has happened before may happen again. Governor HENNESSY's attempt to confiscate the *Fame* broke down because it was found the law could not be stretched sufficiently to cover it, but in the case of the Vehicles Ordinance there would be no need to stretch the law and any business having occasion to use trucks or carts might be brought to a standstill by the withdrawal of its licence should the Government wish to injure the proprietors. That is what may happen, but of course the Government never contemplated the use of the Ordinance for any such purpose.

What then were the ulterior and undisclosed objects which made the Government so desirous "to take every one in the net?" Conceivably one of the objects might be to debar reckless drivers from the privilege of keeping carriages. But the law already provides punishment for furious driving and if any driver does actual damage either to person or property he is liable to be sued civilly for compensation. Elsewhere in the Empire this is deemed sufficient protection for the public, and it has not been shown or publicly alleged that in this colony reckless driving is so exceptionally common as to call for special legislation of the character of the Vehicles Ordinance. Moreover, who would be the examiner of the persons who keep carriages to say whether the driving is reckless or not? The office, with a suitable salary, would form a very nice appointment for a superannuated officer of the Horse Marines. Another object the Government may have had in view is the regulation, on strictly moral grounds, of the persons who are to be permitted to keep carriages. Objections have been raised, we believe, to females of a certain class driving along the public roads. This is an old standing question. Some twenty-five years ago, during Sir ARTHUR KENNEDY's administration, when driving was still a fashionable form of recreation and the Shau-kiwan Road was crowded with carriages every evening, the intrusion of females of the class referred to became so objectionable that it was put a stop to. The law at that time afforded means of bringing pressure to bear upon them to induce compliance with the wishes of the Government, or at all events, whether there was any legal warrant or not for the action taken, it proved effective for a time. Since then conditions have changed. Driving has ceased to be the favourite recreation of society, partly because society has migrated to the Peak and partly because tennis and other forms of recreation have taken the field. A number of traps are still kept, however, mostly by sporting gentlemen for the purpose of driving down to the Racecourse; and the prohibition against public women driving having long ago become a dead letter a few persons of this class may also be seen out driving in the evening. The same thing prevails in all other large cities and towns, and although

it may be considered objectionable, if the Hongkong Government tries to interfere with it they may bring a hornet's nest about their ears, for the subject is a delicate one to handle and such a measure as the Licensing of Private Vehicles Ordinance is little calculated to abate the practice; if the women are not allowed to keep carriages of their own they can hire them, and if the Government tries to meet that by making the livery stable keeper a judge of the morality of his customers there would be a nice kettle of fish to fry. It is a mere matter of surmise, however, that the Government has any intention of prohibiting any particular class keeping vehicles. So far as can be gathered from what transpired in the Legislative Council the Ordinance seems to have been passed mainly for the purpose of showing that the Government is master in the colony, but we believe it is not correct that it is intended to follow it up with other measures making the right to wear clothes or eat food dependent on official licence.

THE DRAINAGE SYSTEM AND FEVER.

"Physician," in a second letter to the *China Mail*, takes exception to our criticism of his first letter, dated 26th November. With reference to the question of anonymity, our point was that when a scientific man professes to speak *ex cathedra* it is desirable that he should speak in his own name. "Physician" in reply refers us to the medical journals and asks if we have never seen reports by "Our own correspondent" or "Commissioner" or unsigned leading articles in them. The reference has no applicability to the point under discussion and if it had the authority would tell against "Physician." The medical journals are written by medical men for medical men, no layman is allowed to contribute to their columns, and in theory they are not supposed to address the general public; consequently a writer in a medical journal and his readers are on the same plain, and if under those circumstances were deemed desirable to carry on discussions anonymously the public would be unaffected thereby. The case is entirely different when a doctor as such addresses the general public through a daily newspaper. But in point of fact anonymity is the exception, not the rule, in medical journals; the leading articles and contributions by the regular staff, although unsigned, cannot be claimed as anonymous in the ordinary sense of the word, because they are published on the editorial responsibility, and the reputation, influence, and success of the journal depend upon their character. However, if "Physician" wishes to preserve his anonymity there is no more to be said in the matter except that his suggestion that we were aware of his identity at the time we wrote our first article is unfounded. The reports as to the name of the writer had not reached us at that time, nor had we formed any opinion of our own on the point. These reports give the name of one of our most respected medical men, who has rendered valuable public service to the colony and to whom we are glad to pay our tribute of respect, but none the less do we feel that his first letter was mistaken in its allegations and inferences and unsound in its policy; nor can we see that matters are at all mended by the second letter.

"Physician" says that he can find nowhere in his previous letter that he deliberately expressed a preference for porous blue bricks to glazed earthenware pipes as a material for making drains of. If a man

says he prefers the ships of a century ago to those of the present day it must be assumed *inter alia* that he prefers sail to steam as a motive power; and so when "Physician" expresses a preference for the system of drainage that preceded the present system he must be taken to express a preference for the blue bricks which were its principal feature. The whole purport of the letter was that the improved drainage system is "a greater and more dangerous nuisance" than even its great promoter could have "expected," and that "herein is the true cause of our present unhealthy condition." Whether it was a logical inference from these expressions that "Physician" preferred the old system, including its blue bricks, is a point that must be left to the judgment of the impartial reader. "Physician" also asks if we have never heard of any forms of low fever arising from sewer-gas poisoning, not necessarily fatal; never read of the lassitude, mental prostration, stunted growth, &c., the heritage of youth reared under such unhealthy conditions, although no so-called filth disease as diphtheria or putrid sore throat may be prevalent, but simply a general want of "tone" and lowering of the constitution? Some of these things we have heard and read of, some we have not, but they have no bearing on the matter, because the question was not whether Hongkong stench was the cause of stunted growth, now mentioned for the first time, but whether they were the true "cause of our present unhealthy condition," meaning the true cause of the prevalent fever. That was the position maintained by "Physician" in his first letter; his second leaves us in some doubt as to whether he has abandoned it or still maintains it, for he now indicts the present drainage system on the general ground of the noxiousness of sewer gas and not on the specific ground that it is the direct, true, and sole cause of the fever "which has been designated 'Dengue,' 'Influenza,' or low fever, according to the fancy of the medical man in attendance." We were very far from contending in our first article that the present drainage system is perfect; all that our contention amounted to was that it is an improvement on the former system, and not, as we understood "Physician" to contend, a retrograde step. We fully agree with "Physician" when he says:—"When you have a beautiful glazed pipe half choked with sewage emitting into the nearest ventilator (probably in your own backyard) overpowering odours, when you have water-closets of the newest type with the latest designs in flushing apparatus approved by the P. W. D., turned into simple sewage receptacles and repositories, when you find house drains in excellent condition to look at, but acting as perfect ventilators for main sewers on account of the traps being dry, I for one most certainly decline to give the system unqualified approval. Without an adequate water supply it is not and cannot be safe." But all these defects were present in a greater degree under the old system, except as to the number of water closets, and permission for the construction of these has only been given in a limited number of cases and under exceptional conditions. A glazed pipe half choked with sewage is a less dangerous nuisance than a blue brick drain completely choked; and if the present system cannot be safe without an adequate water supply the old system was unsafe whether with or without an adequate water supply, for the drains then were constructed of porous materials and in many cases were simply elongated cesspools.

"Physician" now seeks to protect himself from any approval of the smells under the old system by reference to a letter he wrote in 1886 in which he called attention to "the odoriferous and perfectly insanitary condition of the colony;" but no reference was made to that letter in his letter of the 26th November last, so that the reader had no opportunity of perusing the two in conjunction, and the opinions expressed in the later letter cannot therefore be considered modified by those expressed in the one of nine years ago. Moreover, if the colony was in a "perfectly insanitary condition in 1886 why blame the improvements which have since been effected as 'the true cause of our present unhealthy condition?' for if, as "Physician" says, the colony was in a perfectly insanitary condition in 1886 it cannot be in any worse condition to-day, as nothing can become more than perfect.

INQUIRY INTO THE CONDITIONS OF BRITISH TRADE WITH CHINA.

We learn that Mr. Byron Brennan, Her Majesty's Consul at Canton, has been appointed by the home Government a special commissioner to inquire into the conditions of British trade at the treaty ports of China and also at Hongkong and the possibilities of its development.

Mr. Brennan has already commenced his inquiries and on Thursday had an interview at Government House with several gentlemen interested in trade.

THE "STRATHNEVIS" SAFE.

Messrs. Dodwell, Carlill & Co. inform us that they received a telegram on Monday morning from their Tacoma firm stating that news has been received by a sailing vessel which has arrived at Victoria, B.C., that she had spoken the *Strathnevis* on the 19th November, with her main shaft broken, and that she was making the best of her way back to Victoria under sail. The telegram adds that the *Strathnevis* was all well, and that there need not be any anxiety about her. Letters from the captain of the *Strathnevis* were due at Tacoma on the 21st inst., and if there was anything of importance in these letters the Tacoma firm would again telegraph. The main shaft was broken in latitude 49.14 north and longitude 164.27 west, and the sailing vessel spoke the *Strathnevis* in latitude 48.40 north and longitude 145 west.

RAILWAYS IN CHINA.

IMPERIAL DECREE.

An Imperial decree was issued on the 6th instant in response to the memorials favouring the construction of railways presented by the War department. It is to the effect that railways which are most important to trades should be constructed and that the Princes had already been ordered to draw up a plan for a railway from the capital to places in the neighbourhood. The Princes ordered Hsü Wat-fan, Provincial Judge of Kwangsi, to make a report of the locality and the cost. The Judge in reply to the Throne said that the distance from Tientsin, passing along the west bank of the Peiho to Lokaw bridge, is 216 li, that the cost of the railway from the Peiho to Lokaw bridge would be about two million four hundred thousand taels, and that a plan had been drawn up. The Imperial decree says that the Judge who has prepared the report is the most suitable man to undertake the work, and that the cost of the railway is to be provided by the Board of Revenue and the Peiyang Squadron Administration. The decree further says that the railway from Lokaw Bridge to Hankow, which will cost millions of dollars, should be undertaken by the rich merchants, and if merchants can raise such a large capital they are invited to found a company to undertake the work without any molestation from the officers, and further that if the work is carried on properly and successfully they are to be rewarded by the Throne.

REPORTED OPENING OF THE WEST RIVER.

It is reported in Chinese official circles at Canton that Wuchowfu, on the West River, is shortly to be opened to foreign trade. Shuihing, it is said, will not be opened. It is further said that the opening of Wuchowfu may take place within a month, and at any rate within two or three months. This news is important if true. We repeat it simply on hearsay and cannot guarantee its accuracy.

It is also reported that in addition to the new ports mentioned in the treaty with Japan a port is to be opened in Hunan and three in Liaotung.

THE LIGHT AND PASS REGULATIONS.

We learn that a petition from the Chinese inhabitants with reference to the enforcement of the regulation requiring lights to be carried at night is to be sent in to the Registrar-General. No objection is raised to the regulation requiring passes to be taken out, the petition referring solely to the light question.

The petition sets out that at the time the regulations were first introduced there were very few gas lamps in the colony and no electric lights, and the conditions have therefore changed. The regulations have now again been enforced and persons found out at night without lamps are to be arrested, even those of high repute and females. Great alarm is felt and every branch of trade is suffering. For several tens of years the law has never been enforced as it is now. During all the time that people have not been required to carry lamps very few robberies have been committed. The prevention of crime does not depend on the carrying of lamps, but on the well ruling of the colony. The Ordinance says that one lamp will suffice for ten persons. Robbers can very easily get lamps and a gang of robbers with one lamp between them might easily break into shops and commit robberies. The Captain-Superintendent of Police is exerting himself for the welfare of Hongkong, but in this instance not in the proper way. The petitioners therefore request the abolition of the regulation requiring lights to be carried.

A NEW APPOINTMENT FOR SIR FIELDING CLARKE.

CHIEF JUSTICESHIP OF JAMAICA ACCEPTED.

On Thursday Sir Fielding Clarke, the Chief Justice, decided to accept the post of Chief Justice of Jamaica rendered vacant by the death of Sir Henry James Burford Hancock. The first intimation that Sir Fielding Clarke received was on Wednesday, when a telegram reached him asking if he would accept the post, and yesterday he announced his willingness to take the appointment. We are sure that everyone will congratulate Sir Fielding Clarke upon his promotion, but at the same time there will be a genuine feeling of regret that we are about to lose so able, conscientious, and highly popular a Judge. The new appointment carries with it a much increased salary, as while Sir Fielding Clarke receives only \$12,000 here, in Jamaica he will receive £2,000, in addition to being allowed expenses when going on circuit. It is expected that he will leave the colony very shortly, and it is certain that his Lordship will carry with him the good wishes of the whole community. Sir Fielding Clarke was called to the Bar, Middle Temple, Easter Term, in 1876, and was attached to the north-eastern circuit. In 1881 he was appointed Attorney-General of Fiji, and in 1882 he became Chief Justice in the Western Pacific. He came to Hongkong in 1888 when he was appointed Puisne Judge, and on the retirement of the late Sir James Russell he succeeded him as Chief Justice. It will be remembered that during his absence from the colony on leave his position was most ably filled by the Attorney-General (Hon. W. Meigh Goodman), and it is almost certain that the Attorney-General will again act as Chief Justice. Of course it is impossible to say yet who will receive the permanent appointment, but in legal circles the Attorney-General is looked upon as the most likely successor.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Hongkong Legislative Council was held on Thursday afternoon in the Council Chamber. Present:—

His EXCELLENCY the Governor, Sir WILLIAM ROBINSON, K.C.M.G.

Hon. J. H. STEWART-LOCKHART, Colonial Secretary.

Hon. W. M. GOODMAN, Attorney-General.

Hon. A. M. THOMSON, Acting Colonial Treasurer.

Hon. F. A. COOPER, Director of Public Works.

Hon. R. MURRAY RUMSEY, Harbour Master,

Hon. COMMANDER W. C. H. HASTINGS, Acting Captain Superintendent of Police.

Hon. C. P. CHATER.

Hon. HO KAI.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD.

Hon. E. R. BELLIOS, C.M.G.

Hon. A. MCCONACHIE.

Mr. J. G. T. BUCKLE, Acting Clerk of Councils.

NEW MEMBER.

Hon. Commander W. C. H. Hastings took the oath and his seat vice Hon. F. H. May, absent on leave.

MINUTES.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

CORRESPONDENCE *re* MILITARY CONTRIBUTION.

Hon. C. P. CHATER asked the following question.—Will the Government lay upon the table copies of all the correspondence that has passed between the Government of Hongkong and the Colonial Office on the subject of the Military Contribution since the receipt here of the Marquis of Ripon's despatch on that subject of the 27th June, 1895?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY.—The question was received at three o'clock this afternoon, but your Excellency had already decided to have the correspondence to which it refers laid upon the table, and it is already in print. I now beg to lay it accordingly. In doing so I should like to remind the hon. member on my right (Hon. C. P. Chater) that it would be more convenient if due notice were given of a question because, although there may be occasions when urgency requires the waiving of the usual notice it is more convenient as a rule for the conduct of the public business if proper notice were given.

DRAIN FLUSHING.

Hon. E. R. BELLIOS—I beg to give notice of my intention at the next meeting of the Council to ask the two following questions.—Will the Government be good enough to say why (experiments having shown the practicability of such a course) steps are not taken to pump up sea-water to the higher levels in order to wash out the drains, which in the present dry weather are becoming daily more offensive and obnoxious—

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—I do not think that question is in order; it is introducing "matter of debate." I have by me *May's Parliamentary Practice*, and I would call the attention of the hon. member to page 355, where it is stated that "all questions should be limited, as far as possible, to matters immediately connected with the business of Parliament or administration, and should not involve opinion, argument, inference, imputations, irony, or hypothetical cases, nor are any facts to be stated unless they be necessary to make the question intelligible and can be authenticated." I am sure the hon. member will not deny that his question infringes this practice.

Hon. E. R. BELLIOS—I do not know really how to put the question in any other way.

His EXCELLENCY—You must not express an opinion in your question.

Hon. E. R. BELLIOS—I did not, your Excellency.

His EXCELLENCY—Yes, you said that the drains are daily becoming more and more offensive.

Hon. E. R. BELLIOS—This is not an opinion but a fact, I think; I did not think there was any doubt.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—I rise to order; it is not a proper question.

His EXCELLENCY—The question is out of order.

His Excellency directed the Clerk of the Councils to strike out the last few lines of the question so as to bring it into accordance with Parliamentary practice.

THE QUEEN'S STATUE.

Hon. E. R. BELLIOS—My other question is—Will the Government kindly inform the Council of the reasons for the suspension for many months and the apparently indefinite postponement of all work upon the base and pedestal for the Jubilee statue of Her Majesty the Queen? Is there any insuperable obstacle in the way of erection of this statue, which has now for nearly a year been interred in a godown, instead of being placed in the position for which it was designed?

PAPERS.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY said that, in addition to the Military Contribution correspondence, he had to lay on the table the Finance Committee's report.

THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS—I have the honour to lay upon the table the report of the proceedings of the Public Works Committee held on the 25th November.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—May I suggest that that report would appear in a more business-like way if the cost of the buildings were stated against each item as was done—

His EXCELLENCY—I do not know what you are referring to.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—I am referring to the Public Works Committee's report and suggesting that it should contain the cost of each item therein as the reports which come from the Finance Committee to the Council do.

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS—The hon. member will find the cost stated in the printed copy of the estimates.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD asked the following question, which varies slightly in its terms from the notice given:—Will the Government lay upon the table a copy of the correspondence which has passed between the Government (including the elaborate memorandum of the Hon. the Colonial Secretary which accompanied it) and the home officials, and between the latter and the Colonial Government, concerning the petition from the ratepayers of Hongkong to the Commons of England praying for reform in the constitution of the local Government, and for the rights and privileges common to the British people in the smallest parish in England or Scotland of settling their local municipal affairs in their own way and to their own mind; as well as copies of all communications on the subject of the appointment of two unofficial members to the Executive Council, and two additional unofficial members to the Legislative Council?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—As the matter to which the question refers is still under the consideration of the Secretary of State, nothing definite having been decided with regard to it, it would be premature to lay on the table any portion of the correspondence which has taken place on the subject.

INTENDED PREMISES FOR THE PO LEUNG KUK.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD asked the following question:—With reference to the Colonial Secretary's letter No. 1187 of 27th June, 1892, to the Registrar-General, forwarding a *precis* of correspondence *re* Home for Girls, the following paragraphs appear in the latter—

"Five Chinese houses were accordingly erected near St. Stephen's Church in accordance with plans which the Po Leung Kuk Committee had seen, and which, it was understood, they approved. . . ."

"The cost of building these houses was \$8,000; the land on which they stand was valued at about \$12,000.

"There seems to have been some misunderstanding with regard to the rents to be derived from the lower floors, the Po Leung Kuk Committee thinking that they were to go towards the maintenance of the Home, while the Government decided that they were to be paid into the Treasury.

"When the buildings had been completed the Po Leung Kuk objected to move into them because they considered them unsuitable, etc. . . ."

and in the report to the Colonial Secretary dated 1st February, 1892, on a petition from the Po Leung Kuk, the Registrar-General says:—

"I understand that it is the intention of the Government to sell the five houses, the top floors of which were intended for a Home. Their value, together with that of the ground on which they stand, has been estimated by the Surveyor-General at \$21,000."

Will the Government inform the Council whether these houses, erected at the public expense, were built upon inland lot No. 1,129; if so, have they been sold by private contract, the name of the buyer, and at what price? In connection with the sale, if there has been one, will the Government lay upon the table a copy of the correspondence which has passed between the Government and the Colonial Office on the subject?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—(1). No; the houses were built on inland lots 1,129 to 1,133. (2). Yes; to Mr. Moses for \$8,600 on a 999 years' lease, the Crown rent payable being \$100 a year. (3). The Governor is unable to see what useful public purpose would be served by laying the correspondence asked for on the table.

THE LICENSING OF PRIVATE VEHICLES.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD asked the following question:—Will the Government lay upon the table a statement of the number of convictions, the amount of fines imposed and paid, in respect of offences against Ordinance No. 13 of 1895, from the date it came into force until the end of last week, and a copy of the correspondence which has passed between the home authorities and the Colonial Government in connection with the Bill, and also inform the Council whether it has yet received the sanction of the Imperial Government, and if not, state the cause of delay?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—There have been seven convictions under the Ordinance referred to; the fines imposed and paid since the Ordinance came into force amount to \$8. There appears to be no reason of a public nature for publishing the correspondence which has passed on this subject. The Ordinance has been confirmed.

NEW PEAK ROAD.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD asked the following question:—With reference to the numerous signed petition to your Excellency, from Peak residents, house owners, and other ratepayers, praying for the construction, with all reasonable speed, of a new road in lieu of the present steep and unsuitable one—really the original mountain path, widened and improved to meet the requirements of a traffic ever on the increase, and which has outgrown the road's capacities—leading from Victoria Gap, passing on the south of "Treverbyn" and "Stolzenfels," on a comparatively easy gradient, and terminating near the Peak Club or Mount Kellet—will the Government inform the Council whether it is proposed to proceed with this very necessary public work, good road communication being very necessary and earnestly desired by the large resident community; state the probable cost of the road, and if the work is not to be undertaken at present, what are the reasons which delay its being carried out?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—The question of the construction of a new road at the Peak from Victoria Gap is receiving attention and plans and sections have been prepared by the Director of Public Works. When the Government has received his report and estimate, they will be duly considered and an answer will be sent to the petition on this subject.

A POINT OF ORDER.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—Having received your Excellency's permission to do so, I beg to withdraw the next question of which I gave notice at the last meeting.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—Sir, I rise to order. No notice of withdrawal has been given.

His EXCELLENCY—Read the question first.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—Will the Government lay upon the table a copy of the reports or letters to the Government from the sub-committee appointed by the General Committee elected at the public meeting held at the City Hall on 27th September, 1894, to consider and report upon the question of recognition of

services rendered during the suppression of the Plague last year, and a copy of all the correspondence which has passed between the Government and the home authorities in connection therewith? Having received permission to withdraw—

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—Sir, I rise to a point of order. The Clerk of Councils has received no information with regard to the withdrawal of this question, and I consider that in not giving notice of his intention to withdraw he has treated this Council with great discourtesy. I have in my hand the correspondence, which has been printed and is ready to be laid upon the table in accordance with the hon. member's request. If the hon. member has reasons for not wishing the correspondence to be laid on the table he should have notified the Clerk of Councils in the usual way. I consider he is entirely out of order.

His EXCELLENCY—I am not not at all surprised at the remarks which the hon. Colonial Secretary has made, looking to the treatment which the Government receives at the hands of the hon. member, in regard to the bewildering and somewhat useless questions which he sometimes puts; but unfortunately (as the hon. Colonial Secretary will think) I have led Mr. Whitehead to believe that I would permit him to withdraw this question. When I did so, I was not aware that the correspondence conveying the answer was actually in print, but I will adhere to my promise. I will keep my word and allow the question to be withdrawn, although it is not strictly in order to do so. I do it not so much out of consideration for the hon. member as out of regard for Mr. Francis, who has been dangerously ill, and has I believe expressed a desire that the correspondence or at all events some of it should not be made public. I cannot allow the question to be withdrawn without stating that I think it furnishes another example of the vexatious, not to say aimless, nature of the questions put by the hon. member. I do not see that the interests of the community or the Chamber of Commerce are advanced by such questions or benefited by the expense which the Government is put to in furnishing and printing the replies to them.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—Sir, I was quite aware of the reasons which your Excellency has given, and which I think the hon. member might have communicated in the usual way to the Clerk of Councils.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—Sir, I apologise for having omitted to inform the Clerk of Councils. This has been a very busy day; we had a meeting of the Unofficial Members at twelve, and another important meeting at Government House at 12.30; and, as your Excellency is well aware, it has been an exceptionally busy day. I therefore overlooked it, and for my unintentional omission to communicate with the Clerk of Councils I humbly apologise to the Council. I am extremely sorry that your Excellency thinks that some of my questions are of a useless nature. I may mention that a great many of the questions which I have put to-day and asked on previous occasions have been put at the instance of a very large number of members of the community, and on their behalf, and not at my own instance; and on many occasions I have been requested by a large number of leading members of the community to put certain questions. I now beg to ask—Will the Government lay upon the table—

His EXCELLENCY—Is this a fresh series?

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—No, it is a question of which I gave notice before.—Will the Government lay upon the table a copy of the despatch from the Secretary of State to the Colonies sanctioning the pension to be paid to the Honourable Mr. Justice Ackroyd on his retiring from the service?

The Colonial Secretary laid the despatch upon the table.

PROFESSIONAL REPORT ON GAP ROCK LIGHT-HOUSE.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD asked—Will the Government inform the Council on whose recommendation Mr. Matthews was requested to visit Hongkong, inspect professionally the Gap Rock lighthouse, and state the cost of his report?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—Mr. Matthews, who happened to be on a professional visit to

Ceylon, was requested to come to Hongkong by the Governor. The cost of his report is not yet known.

GOLF CLUB HOUSE AT WEST END OF WONG-NEI-CHONG.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD asked—Will the Government inform the Council as to the conditions on which the Golf Club have been granted authority to build their club house at the west end of the Wong-nei-chong Valley, and the terms of the lease, if there is one?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—The following are the conditions on which the Golf Club have been granted authority to build their club house at the west end of the Wong-nei-chong Valley:—

- (a).—Term of lease 25 years
- (b).—Annual Crown rent \$100
- (c).—The exact area and position to be apportioned by the Wong-nei-chong Committee and the Director of Public Works.
- (d).—That the ground be used only for the purposes of a golf club house and should the Golf Club at any time cease to use it as such, the land, buildings, and all improvements thereon revert unconditionally to the Crown.

ROAD FROM PLANTATION ROAD STATION TO MAGAZINE GAP.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD asked—Will the Government inform the Council whether it is proposed to proceed with the construction of the much needed and desirable new road between Plantation Road Station and Magazine Gap; the probable cost; if the work is not to be proceeded with at present, what causes the delay, and when will the work be taken in hand?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—It is not intended, at any rate for the present, to proceed with the road in question. The probable cost is estimated at about \$13,000. The work is not to be proceeded with at present because there are no funds available. It is not possible to state when the work will be taken in hand.

COST OF THE ADMINISTRATION.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD asked—Will the Government lay upon the table a statement showing the total cost of the administration, or the expenditure of the Government under the head of salaries, including allowances if any, pensions, exchange compensation, &c., for the years 1892, 1893, 1894, and 1895, separately.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—In reply to that question I beg to lay upon the table a statement showing the total cost for the years 1892-1894; the exact cost for 1895 has not yet been ascertained as the accounts have not yet been closed. Now, having replied to all the hon. member's questions, I trust to be permitted to remind him that there is a certain established practice guiding questions. I again refer to *May's Parliamentary Practice*, which lays down the practice on this subject and the rules observed in Parliament. Some of the hon. member's questions infringe these rules, but in order not to appear in any way to burke the questions, I thought it would be better to allow him to put them and then draw attention to this after they had been answered. I am sure it will be quite sufficient to draw the hon. member's attention to this in order to secure that he will not in future introduce into his questions matter involving "opinion, debate, irony," etc., which he can express later on if he wishes to bring forward any subject in the form of a motion.

MR. JUSTICE ACKROYD'S RETIREMENT.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD gave notice that at the next meeting of the Council he would move the following resolution:—That His Honour Mr. Justice E. J. Ackroyd (recently retired after forty-one years of true and faithful work in the Colonial Service, of which he served in Hongkong for fourteen years as Registrar of the Supreme Court, Puisne Judge, and Acting Chief Justice) rendered very many and most valuable services to the colony, outside and in addition to the duties of the various offices held by him. That from 1882 to 1890 he was a member of the commission for the revision of the laws of the colony; he was on the Crown Lands commission; on the Squatters commission; on the Board for adjusting the claims of the squatters; on the commission of enquiry into the defalcations in the Post Office, and in the Treasury; on the enquiry into the working of the emigration laws; and on the enquiry into the difficulties in 1891 which arose

between the Opium Farmer and the Government. He rendered services of great value as Chairman of the enquiry into the expenditure and the cost of the administration, and as Chairman of the Committee appointed to enquire into the resumption of the Taipingshan district, he carried out a most difficult, arduous, and delicate work with promptitude, impartiality, and to the entire satisfaction of the Government and the claimants. The Council desire to tender to the Honourable Mr. Justice Ackroyd their hearty thanks for all his zealous labours, ever readily and cheerfully rendered, and for his devotion to promoting the welfare and the interests of the colony, and to wish him every health and happiness, as well as a continued career of usefulness.

SUPREME COURT FUNDS ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I have the honour to move the first reading of a Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend the law as to certain moneys paid into the Supreme Court or to the Registrar thereof.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded.
Bill read the first time.

THE STAMP ORDINANCE.

The ACTING COLONIAL TREASURER—I have the honour to move the first reading of a Bill entitled An Ordinance to further amend "The Stamp Ordinance, 1886."

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL seconded.
Bill read the first time.

THE APPROPRIATION BILL.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—I have the honour to move the second reading of the Bill entitled An Ordinance to apply a sum not exceeding two millions four hundred and seventy-nine thousand and sixty-two dollars to the Public Service of the year 1896. It has been usual sometimes to enter into full details in moving the second reading of this Bill. On this occasion, however, I do not propose to detain the Council with any remarks of mine, as your Excellency has so fully and, as the senior unofficial member stated at the last meeting, so lucidly explained the financial position of the colony, that it is quite unnecessary for me to enter into particulars now. When the Bill is being considered in Finance Committee I shall be very happy to afford any information that members may desire and which has not been explained in the papers.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL seconded.
Bill read the second time.

WIDOWS AND ORPHANS PENSIONS ORDINANCE.

The ACTING COLONIAL TREASURER moved the second reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance to amend the Widows and Orphans Pensions Ordinances of 1890 and 1891 (Nos. 2 of 1890 and 18 of 1891). He said that if any explanations were required he would be glad to give them in Committee.

Bill read the second time.

Council went into Committee and the Bill was reported without amendment.

THE POLICE FORCE CONSOLIDATION ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I have the honour to move the second reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance to further amend the Police Force Consolidation Ordinance, 14 of 1887. The Ordinance makes some slight changes in two sections of Ordinance 14 of 1887, which is the present law regulating the police force, and these alterations are very simple. It seems very undesirable that Chinese constables, for instance, should be able to get a quinquennial bonus of three months' full pay in lieu of a passage home to their own country. It was intended to afford constables a holiday at the end of five years and when the passage money was as much as three months' pay there was no objection to a constable receiving three months' pay as a bonus if he did not wish to go home. The right is now restricted by section 2 of this Ordinance. In future it will be for a constable to elect at the end of each five years of service either to get a free passage home or else a bonus equal to the cost of that passage provided such sum does not exceed three months' pay. Section 3 gives the Governor power to withdraw distinctive badges or medals for long and faithful or extraordinary services in cases of subsequent misconduct. The fourth section makes some alterations in the numbers of the

Police force, and gives the Governor power to state generally how many should be drafted to the various departments.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded.

Bill read the second time.

Council went into Committee.

Bill read clause by clause and passed.

FIRE INQUIRIES.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I have the honour to move the second reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance to authorize in certain cases judicial investigations into the causes of fire. The Ordinance 23 of 1888 could be worked properly only by two Magistrates, because it provided that one Magistrate shall hold the preliminary enquiry and then if there was any charge made against anybody who was suspected of having committed any offence, such as arson, the evidence, before he was committed for trial, had to be taken by another Magistrate. Therefore the decision to have only one Magistrate rendered the previous Ordinance practically inoperative; therefore it has to be altered. Section 6 in the previous Ordinance seemed undesirable. It provided that no use should be made at all of evidence taken at the preliminary enquiry against a prisoner, because I suppose it was thought it would be hard to use evidence which was not taken in the presence of a prisoner. But the section did not say that the evidence could not be used in his favour; and I recollect in one case we had some difficulty, as the section was so worded that it was questionable whether we could make use of the evidence at all, even indirectly. I find the section was inserted when the 1888 Bill was passed, and I think it might, well come out. The other alterations are scarcely worth mentioning, and there are one or two verbal alterations to make the Bill clearer. The only clause about which there might be any discussion is that about the examining of witnesses. Section 4 reads, "It shall be lawful for any Inspector of Police or for any interested person present at such investigation, with the leave of the Magistrate, to examine the witnesses and to cause such persons to be examined as may give due and proper information touching such case of fire." These words are precisely the same as those in the Ordinance which has been in force since 1888; and I have not thought it right to make any alteration. On one occasion there was some public criticism on the way in which the Magistrate exercised his discretion. I do not think we can interfere with the discretion of the Magistrate who conducts the inquiry. In nearly all the cases in which he has exercised his discretion satisfaction has been expressed. There was one case in which some dissatisfaction was expressed, but I would not like to say the Magistrate was wrong. I think you must give him power to stop examination if necessary, and the sole question is how he should exercise that power. If it is thought desirable to examine personally or by counsel I shall have no objection to alter the clause. I now beg to propose the second reading of the Ordinance.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded.

Bill read the second time.

Council went into Committee.

Clause 4.—The ACTING COLONIAL TREASURER—Are the words "present at such investigation" necessary?

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I do not mind the words coming out; certainly the person examining would have to be "present at such investigation."

It was resolved to make the following alteration:—"It shall be lawful . . . interested person, with the leave of the Magistrate, to examine at such investigation, personally or by counsel or solicitor, &c."

The Bill was reported and Council resumed.

THE BRITISH POSSESSIONS PROBATE ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the second reading of the Bill entitled An Ordinance to provide for the recognition in the colony of probates and letters of administration granted in British possessions.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded.

Bill read the second time.

Council went into Committee and the Bill was reported without amendment.

The Bill was then read a third time and passed.

THE BANKRUPTCY ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I have the honour to move the second reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance to further amend "The Bankruptcy Ordinance, 1891." As I have already written my reasons I do not propose to detain you long, but if further explanations are asked for by hon. members I shall be glad to give them. Section 1 carries out the instructions received from the Secretary of State as to the payment into the Treasury of fees and commissions by the Official Receiver. Section 2 seeks to remedy a hardship under the Bankruptcy Ordinance of 1891. In this colony cases often arise of Chinese traders in difficulties commencing to remove their goods for the purpose of putting them beyond the reach of their creditors. Proceedings taken at considerable expense by a creditor who gets an order of the Court for seizure of the goods may, in the event of a bankruptcy petition being filed, simply result in the preservation of those goods for the general body of creditors at the cost of that particular creditor. It seems only just that, in such cases, the Court should have power in its discretion to allow a priority to the costs of the legal proceedings of the creditor whose exertions have thus benefited the estate, similar to that at present accorded to the costs of the bankruptcy petitioner.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded.

Bill read the second time.

Council went into Committee and the Bill was reported without amendment.

The Bill was then read a third time and passed.

THE MARKETS ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I beg to move the second reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance to further amend "The Cattle Diseases, Slaughter-houses, and Markets Ordinance, 1887." I may say this Bill was brought forward at the request of the Sanitary Board. Hon. members will remember that last year an Ordinance was passed making it an offence to forge the broad arrow brand which is required to be stamped by an officer upon all animals taken into the slaughter-house to be killed. Some little time ago a case arose in which a drover drove a steer into a slaughter-house. The animal had the broad arrow stamped upon it, but it turned out that the mark was forged, and before the Inspector detected it the animal was killed and its hide taken off. The drover was summoned, but it was found impossible to prove that he applied the mark; he said he was in total ignorance as to the way it got on. Unless it could be proved who put the brand on a conviction could not be obtained. The Magistrate required very strict proof of that, and it turned out that it was always very difficult to prove who did put the brand on. The Sanitary Board came to the conclusion that it was absolutely necessary to prevent animals with a forged mark from being introduced into slaughter-houses and there slaughtered, and this Ordinance not only hits the drover but the owner as well, as they are both liable in cases of contravention of the Ordinance. On conviction the animal will be forfeited, and the forfeiture will prevent a rejected or unfit animal from being surreptitiously disposed of for human food. I trust this will meet the views of hon. members. I may add that it is almost impossible by legislation to meet all the dodges and subterfuges which are resorted to by persons who wish to introduce diseased meat into the market.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—I beg to second that. I trust that hon. members will consent to the Ordinance being passed to-day, seeing that it is so very near Christmas and that meat is a prime necessity on that festive occasion.

Bill read the second time.

Council went into Committee, and the Bill was reported without amendment.

The Bill was then read a third time and passed.

ADJOURNMENT.

His EXCELLENCY—The Council now sits in Finance Committee and I adjourn the Council until next Thursday at 3.30.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Finance Committee was then held. The COLONIAL SECRETARY presided and all the members were present.

MINUTES.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

THE APPROPRIATION BILL.

The CHAIRMAN—Hon. members are aware that our object to-day is to consider the Appropriation Bill, and I propose that we adopt on this occasion the course which has previously been followed, that is, to take each item on the Bill, and explanations can be given on any item that hon. members ask about. I take it that that course is agreeable to hon. members.

The whole of the items were adopted with the exception of one—Military Expenditure \$440,215. In regard to this,

Hon. C. P. CHATER said—I would ask that consideration of this item be postponed till the next meeting. The answer from the Secretary of State to his Excellency's despatch was received by the Unofficial Members late on Monday afternoon, and we have scarcely had time to consider so important a question. I would therefore ask that the consideration of this question be postponed till this day week.

The CHAIRMAN—I do not quite understand the hon. member. Do you mean to say that the consideration of this question should be postponed in the Finance Committee till next week?

Hon. C. P. CHATER—Yes.

The CHAIRMAN—Do I understand you to mean that we are to hold an adjourned meeting of the Finance Committee before the meeting of Council, so that we can consider this item in Finance Committee first and then in Council?

Hon. C. P. CHATER—Certainly.

Hon. Ho Kai—In consequence of the despatches laid on the table to-day we should like to have some little time to study them.

The CHAIRMAN—I am sure the Government has no desire to hurry the consideration of this matter, but the despatch, of course, has been in the hands of the Unofficial Members for some days, and it was also published in the press at the earliest opportunity. However, on the understanding—

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—We understood, at the meeting we had to-day, that there are other despatches of a former date from the Governor containing certain recommendations in support of what had been represented to the Government by the Unofficial Members in the matter of the £40,000 contribution. If those despatches could be supplied to us it would enable us to give fuller consideration to this important item than we would otherwise be able to give it.

The CHAIRMAN—I think all the important despatches have been printed and laid on the Council table.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—I understood several despatches had been written by the Governor. At the opening of the Council last year in his address he stated, I think, and also on some other occasion that he had been in communication with the Secretary of State and had forwarded the views of the Unofficial Members on this subject.

The CHAIRMAN—I will ask his Excellency if he has any other information to give the members, but it must be clearly understood that this item must be brought on at the Council next Thursday. It is important that the estimates should reach home at an early date, and there can be no delay after next Thursday.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—If there are any other despatches will you let the Unofficial Members have copies within the next few days?

The CHAIRMAN—I am unable to answer any question of that kind. I think if his Excellency had had other information of use to the Unofficial Members he would have laid it on the table. It is impossible to wait any longer than next Thursday. In fact, it is at the special request of Unofficials delay has taken place already. The Government does not want to appear to hurry discussion, but it is necessary that the estimates should reach home at an early date. I understand the Committee has no objection to adjourn till next Thursday, say till a quarter of three.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL—What time is the Council meeting?

The CHAIRMAN—At half-past three.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL—Members might not have time to say all they have to say before

the meeting of Council. I am sorry we could not keep the Council waiting.

The CHAIRMAN—The Council will meet at three o'clock to-morrow.

The CHAIRMAN—As the hon. member on my left suggests, Wednesday might be a more convenient day.

Hon. Ho Kai—We shall want Wednesday for ourselves.

Hon. C. P. CHATER—I think a quarter to three on Thursday would be very convenient.

The CHAIRMAN—That gives us three quarters of an hour. I hope hon. members will have made up their minds so fully on the subject that discussion will not be necessary.

Hon. C. P. CHATER—Our minds are made up, but we want to consider the mode of procedure. There is not one amongst us who has not made up his mind to vote against it, but what other course of procedure we may follow we do not know.

The CHAIRMAN—The Government does not desire to appear to hurry matters, and it is agreed to meet on Thursday next at half-past two. I trust that will be convenient for Officials and Unofficial Members. This item is therefore left over for consideration until next Thursday.

The Public Works Extraordinary items were then passed *en bloc*.

ADJOURNMENT.

The CHAIRMAN—The Committee stands adjourned until Thursday next at 2.30. That is all the business, gentlemen.

THE MILITARY CONTRIBUTION.

At the meeting of the Legislative Council on Thursday a series of papers relating to the military contribution was laid on the table. The papers are three in number, namely, a despatch from the Governor to the Secretary of State forwarding a communication from the Unofficial Members, the Unofficial Member's communication aforesaid, and the Secretary of State's reply. The two latter have already been published. The Governor's despatch is as follows:—

Government House,

Hongkong, 28th August, 1895.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Lord Ripon's despatch, No. 156 of the 27th June last, on the subject of the military contribution to be paid by this colony.

2.—On receiving this despatch I at once communicated it to the Unofficial Members of the Legislative Council, who have forwarded to me the reply, a copy of which is enclosed.

3.—In this reply you will observe that the Unofficial Members, while not opposing the principle of fixing a proportion of the revenue as the amount of the military contribution, urge that what may be regarded as the municipal items of revenue should be exempted from the percentage to be charged, such exemption having been granted in the case of the Straits Settlements.

4.—As you are aware, no municipality exists in Hongkong, and for that reason no distinction has hitherto been made between the revenue collected for general and for municipal purposes. But, though no such distinction has been made, there are certain items of revenue which may legitimately be regarded as municipal, and which, if a municipality existed or were created, would be levied and expended by it. The enclosed list, drawn up by the Acting Treasurer (Mr. Thomson), shows what these items are. If this colony is to be treated in the same manner as the Straits Settlements, where the local or municipal revenues, amounting in round figures to £1½ million, are exempted from contribution towards the military expenditure, it would be reasonable to expect that this colony should also be entitled to enjoy a similar exemption.

It is to be observed that the items which have been raised by this Government for the purpose of carrying out works of a purely municipal nature, such as waterworks, markets, &c., and it appears equitable that the revenue derived from such works, instead of being subjected to a charge of 17½ per cent., should be applied to their upkeep, to defraying

the interest on the moneys raised by loan to construct them, and to forming a sinking fund for the ultimate liquidation of the loan.

With regard to the question of barrack accommodation, the Unofficial Members, as will be seen from their reply, are quite prepared to consider any vote that may be brought forward to defray the cost of such buildings as have not yet been commenced, but they are opposed to voting the moneys required for buildings already erected, as "the ratepayers will very much resent being called upon to pay for works which, without any reference to them or their representatives, have been already completed or are nearing completion."

7.—The arguments, advanced by the Unofficial Members regarding the exemption of the municipal items from contributing towards the military expenditure appear to me to be reasonable and worthy of favourable consideration.

* * * *

—I have the honour to be, your Lordship's most obedient, humble servant,

WILLIAM ROBINSON,
Governor.

The Right Honourable Joseph Chamberlain, M.P., Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, &c., &c., &c.

THE SUPREME COURT FUNDS ORDINANCE.

The objects and reasons of this Bill, read a first time at the meeting of the Legislative Council on Thursday, are as follows:—

The object of this Bill is to carry out the instructions of the Secretary of State "that an Ordinance should be passed somewhat on the lines of The Sutors' Funds Ordinance, 1891, of the Straits Settlements, under which the Court monies are placed on deposit with the Colonial Treasurer and the Government is made liable to make good all monies so placed on deposit together with interest at the rate of two per cent. per annum."

Where the parties desire to obtain a greater interest than the two per cent. provided by the Bill, they must apply for an order of the Court to sanction any particular investment.

The Bill is very similar to the Straits Settlements Ordinance above referred to, which was based upon the Imperial Act 35 and 36, Vict. cap. 44, seds. 14-19.

MR. JUSTICE ACKROYD'S PENSION.

The following despatch respecting Mr. Justice Ackroyd's rate of pension was laid before the Legislative Council on Thursday:—

Sir,—With reference to previous correspondence on the subject of the rate at which Mr. Justice Ackroyd should be allowed to draw his pension, I transmit to you the enclosed copies of correspondence from which you will perceive that I have thought it better to concede the point which he contended for.

I was aware that my predecessor had only arrived at a contrary conclusion after much doubt and deliberation; but whilst I recognise the force of the arguments which found most weight with him, I have thought that as there was a doubt as to the matter, through some oversight, was not made clear to Mr. Justice Ackroyd at the time of his appointment it was preferable on grounds of public policy to lean to the more generous view.

The pension will amount to two-thirds of £8,400, or, in other words, to £5,600, which, at the exchange rate of 12½ to the dollar, will be equal to \$70,000 a year.

The Governor of Mauritius has been instructed to pay Mr. Justice Ackroyd this sum from Hongkong funds, and to contribute to the Mauritius Government the balance of the sum which this colony should contribute towards his total pension. The payments will then be adjusted between the two colonies.—I have the honour to be, sir, your obedient, humble servant.

J. CHAMBERLAIN.

Governor Sir William Robinson, K.C.M.G., &c., &c., &c.,

THE AMOUNT PAID IN PERSONAL EMOLUMENTS, ETC.

The following statement showing the total cost of personal emoluments, pensions, &c., for the years 1892, 1893, and 1894 was laid before the Legislative Council on Thursday:—

	1892.	1893.	1894.
Average Exchange	2/10 $\frac{1}{4}$	2/6 $\frac{1}{2}$	2/11
Salaries (including Allowances) ...	\$821,509.52	\$750,851.13	\$764,337.04
Pensions ...	67,086.54	86,706.79	100,077.28
Exchange Compensation	22,578.21

Total...\$888,596.06 \$837,557.92 \$886,992.53

The figures for 1895 cannot be ascertained, as the accounts for the year cannot yet be closed.

A. M. THOMSON.

Acting Treasurer.

Hongkong, 3rd December, 1895.

THE STAMP ORDINANCE AMENDMENT BILL.

The objects and reasons of this Bill, read a first time at the meeting of the Legislative Council on Thursday, are as follows:—

The principal object of this Ordinance is to enable the documents in the schedule to be stamped, without penalty, at any time within seven days from their date of execution.

At the same time, it has been thought desirable to slightly alter the wording of sections 8 and 10 of the principal Ordinance, to confer on the collector a slightly enlarged discretion with regard to the remission of penalties, and to reduce the penalties from ten and twenty times the amount of deficient duty to four and ten times such amount, respectively.

AFFAIRS IN SOUTH FORMOSA.

[FROM AN OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENT.]
TAINANFU, 25th November.

A regular expedition against the Hakkas has been arranged and at this moment the troops are hotly engaged in the plains on which are situated the towns of A-kou and Ah-li-khan. It was not without first doing all negotiation and conciliation could suggest that the Japanese decided to resort to force. Responsible agents were sent in to interview the Hakkas and offer them all reasonable protection and terms, and it must be admitted that these envoys were properly received and treated by the tribesmen. For a time things appeared to be going on favourably, but so soon as the question of total disarmament arose then the Hakkas became immovable. To their plea that they need arms for protection against the Pehphoans the Japanese responded that they would undertake all the responsibility of defence, and would guarantee that the life and property of any one under their rule should be carefully guarded. They also pointed out the great necessity in every well regulated community for each person having confidence in the authorities and leaving to them the administration of these laws under which justice would be dealt out impartially to all subject to them. They tried to show the inconvenience and confusion that must arise if all and sundry thought they had the right to take the law into their own hands. This and much more the Japanese continued to urge with the greatest forbearance and patience, but all to no avail, the Hakkas positively refusing to give up their arms and announcing that any attempt to search for the same would be energetically resisted.

Though reminded of what the Japanese had already accomplished, both in this island and elsewhere in China, and the consequent foolishness of continuing resistance to their advance, these misguided people persist in believing or asserting their ability to do what others had failed to effect; and so it has come about that, most reluctantly, the delegates had to withdraw, leaving the military to settle matters. Even then, hoping that better counsels might prevail if a real demonstration of force were

made, a company of soldiers were sent in as a reconnoitring party with orders to fall back as soon as unmistakable signs of hostility were shown by the Hakkas. The party had not advanced far before a vigorous assault was made on them, and they, too, in pursuance of their orders had to retire and report the evident hopelessness of effecting anything by pacific measures. This point once definitely settled, the Japanese set to work with their usual energy to make arrangements for meeting the inevitable. A fully equipped force, numbering about 2,000 men of all arms, under a brigadier, were soon on the march for the disaffected area.

It should perhaps be explained that the Hakkas, or "immigrants" ("kheh-lang") as they are called by all other Formosan lowlanders, occupy, together with the Pehphoans, the plain lands which extend from the base of the westernmost range of mountains up to the large river which enters the sea at Tangkang, about 17 miles south of Takow, but which stream rises many miles to the north and eastward of this point.

With the Pehphoans the Hakkas have always kept up a constant feud, and rarely meet each other without fighting. These latter people are on friendly terms with the Japanese and, quite ready to accept their rule, will no doubt prove very useful allies in this Hakka affair.

As soon as it became evident that the Japanese really meant business the Hakkas, on their part, began to prepare for the struggle. By damming up the Tangkang river they have flooded considerable portions of the plain. Here and there they have put up strongholds, or "forts," elevated above the surrounding water, with ready means of retreat to others in the rear should the situation at any place call for abandonment. The paths for retreat have been very ingeniously constructed, with means for flooding and otherwise destroying them as soon as the last Hakka has passed. All over the submerged plains the ground has been planted so as to hamper the approach of cavalry and to lesser extent infantry. Of course this line of defence can only go about one-third of the way from the banks of the river to the mountains, but, after that, equally ingenious earthworks and defences have been constructed. All their women and children are massed together at the final stronghold just at the foot of the mountains and on the approach of the Japanese these non-combatants will fly to the mountains, whither the fighting force will also eventually retreat if they find it impossible to hold out longer in the lowland defences. They are extremely well armed with Winchester repeaters and even field guns. Their supply of ammunition is said to be abundant, as Liu placed great reliance in them as a fighting body, and had given them the best equipment of all his troops.

When the Japanese landed at Takow all the Hakkas fell back into their own districts, of course taking with them all the arms and ammunition in their possession. It is also said that Liu had formed some reserve stores of ammunition in the Hakka country, as at one time he thought of himself retreating there and waging guerilla warfare on the invaders from that place and the adjoining mountains.

Inability to make trustworthy terms with the aborigines, however, led to Liu giving up this plan, as, of course, unless the savages, who have full command of the mountain fastnesses, were friendly the situation would be quite as unpleasant as that from which protection was sought. The Hakkas, although always more or less at feud with the aborigines in times past, believe they have lately patched up a sort of "friendship and alliance" with the latter and have had several "pow-wows" and orgies to cement the same. It would seem curious, however, if the aborigines should suddenly forget and forgive the years and years of treachery and cruelty with which the Hakkas have consistently treated them, and there may be a good deal of truth in the statement that all the aborigines want is to get their arms and ammunition, after which they will eject the intruders or otherwise get rid of them.

Prior to the actual commencement of hostilities the Hakkas made several attempts to win over the plainlanders to their side, only

asking that they should find them house accommodation and food in return for the fighting which they would be solely responsible for. These advances not being accepted they made several raids on the villages and houses, abducting women, to be held as hostages, and taking away much property.

By the 23rd or 24th the Japanese had assembled on the right or western side of the Tangkang river, and all being ready they crossed the same without opposition. As soon as they reached the first line of defence, however, the resistance was great and the progress slow. By the evening of the 25th Nov. they had overcome these difficulties and had penetrated nearly up to the base of the hills. Here we must leave them for the present, as it will be more convenient and probably more conducive to accuracy if we await details of movements and operations until a little later date.

The authorities issued a proclamation the other day calling on all persons who had stills or trees (sic) to send in an account of same, together with title-deeds proving their ownership and authority to work the same. This would appear to show that the Japanese have not as yet made themselves familiar with the tenure the aboriginal proprietorship of camphor trees alone renders possible. Having so satisfactorily settled the arrangements for going up country and working this industry with the Chinese authorities, after many attempts at evasion and obstruction on the part of the latter, it is to be hoped that no misunderstanding will now arise and interfere with what is undoubtedly a most valuable and important branch of Formosan trade. Foreign merchants are deeply interested in this camphor business and have a good deal of money invested. While therefore they confidently rely on the well-known desire of the Japanese to continue all the advantages and privileges hitherto enjoyed, whether in regard to trade or anything else, they cannot help feeling a little anxious lest the not unnatural want of information as to the real conditions and state of the camphor industry, as displayed by the proclamation under notice, may lead to some delay, and its consequent financial inconvenience to those whose interests are so considerably involved. We therefore hope that as soon as the Japanese have studied the subject and become thoroughly posted in the rights of the case many of the fears at present suggested may turn out to be groundless.

The railway progresses apace and we expect will reach this city in the time announced. The Japanese have started on making a good horse and carriage road between this and Takow and hope soon to complete it. This will be a grand boon, and practically makes the two ports into one, a benefit which, in view of the risks to health attendant on residence at the northern settlement, cannot be too highly appreciated.

All over the country, and even in the city of Tainanfu, numerous out-of-work and evil disposed Chinese are committing depredations on the people, and are even audacious enough to assume Japanese dress and authority for their misdeeds. This irritates the people very much, and is the cause of much regret and annoyance to the authorities. The other day, on the earnest solicitation of the country people, a body of gendarmes were sent out to a place near Koussia, about five miles from Takow, and after some resistance on the part of the robbers succeeded in capturing thirteen of the rogues, including their leader. Amongst them was a Cantonese ex-soldier, reported to be a notorious pirate. They were all taken to the city of Pithau and we hear will have very short shrift, or at least one the length of which has been diminished by a head. The Japanese coolies, too, are a source of terrible annoyance to every one, and not least to their own authorities. They seem to be an extremely low class, and commit the most wanton acts of robbery and destruction. They walk into the peoples' houses and help themselves to anything that takes their fancy for the moment. If they find nothing they proceed in a spirit of pure wantonness to destroy all the poor peoples' little furniture and crockery, and as often as not assault the owners. It seems unfortunate for the Japanese authorities that just at this juncture, when doing all they can to conciliate the people, they should be forced by circumstances to introduce such a horde of ruffians as these coolies are. Whether

when the civilians take charge they will be better able to control them or not seems doubtful, so we hope they will dispense with their presence at as early a date as possible. We know that the authorities are as sorry about this state of affairs as anyone else and do all they possibly can to ameliorate matters.

From what we can hear it seems that the sugar season will be very late in beginning this year, the mill-owners being, or professing to be, afraid to start lest they should have their animals taken away from them. Here, again, the authorities are doing all they can to reassure the stupid people and are most anxious that they should start work at once, but at present it would seem useless to talk to them. Although the crop has been affected by weather, typhoons, &c., it cannot be fairly said that the military operations have done much, if any, injury, and as a fact great care has been taken all along to avoid trampling down growing crops, whether of sugar or rice.

DISAPPEARANCE OF A REGISTERED LOCAL LETTER.

At the Magistracy yesterday, before Mr. T. Sercombe Smith, a boy named Tong San-king was charged with stealing a registered local letter, contents unknown, addressed to Mrs. J. D. Humphreys, Mount Richmond. Mr. Ewens appeared for the prosecution, and with his sanction the charge was amended to one of wilfully detaining the letter.

Ling Sung, a letter carrier in the employ of the General Post Office, said: On the 30th November I delivered a registered letter to the defendant at the house of Mr. Humphreys between 7 and 8 p.m. I gave a receipt form, which was tied up with the letter. I left the letter, but did not get the receipt signed, as defendant told me to come back for it on the following Monday. I went back on Monday about one p.m. He said "Mrs. Humphreys is asleep, come again." I went again on Tuesday at about one p.m., but I did not see the defendant then. In consequence of what I was told I went to the Post Office and spoke to Mr. Solly. Mr. Solly gave me a letter, which I took to the house. On that occasion I saw the defendant, who handed me the answer to the letter. The registered letter had written on it in Chinese characters, "Hongkong Dispensary's taipan's private residence."

Mrs. Humphreys then said: The defendant is a substitute head boy, and I have had him six weeks. I did not receive a registered letter and a receipt form was not brought to me to sign. I first saw the receipt form on the 3rd December when having dinner. The defendant brought me a packet of letters, on the top of which was the receipt form, but it was not tied to any letter. He asked me to sign the receipt before I had looked at the letters. I looked through the letters and asked him for the letter for which I had to sign the receipt form. He said "I gave it to you on Saturday." I said "I have not seen any such letter, boy." He said "Yes, I gave it to you, and master was sitting there." He told me to bring the receipt form back on Monday.

Mr. J. D. Humphreys deposed: It is not true that the defendant brought a registered letter on the 30th November, nor is it true that I told him to come for the receipt on Monday, 2nd December.

This concluded the case for the prosecution.

Defendant, in addressing the Magistrate, said: On Saturday, 30th November, between seven and eight o'clock p.m., the letter carrier brought four letters, one of which was a white one wrapped in a receipt form. I handed the letter to my mistress at dinner. She said "We are busy; tell the carrier to come next time for it." I told the carrier to come back for the receipt. Afterwards the loki found the receipt on the table and he handed it to Mrs. Humphreys to sign. She asked him for the letter and then asked me. I said "I have handed you the letter; the postman did not deliver a parcel."

The prisoner was sent to gaol for three months with hard labour.

We understand the letter was posted by Messrs. Hing Kee & Co. for a lady who has gone to Calcutta, and the letter was tied up in a way to denote that it contained something more than correspondence.

FORGED BANK NOTES IN HONGKONG.

At the Magistracy on Wednesday, before Mr. T. Sercombe Smith, Ng Kwai Shan, trader, of 9, Winglok Street, was charged with unlawfully offering and disposing of a forged bank note purporting to be a \$50 note of the Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China, knowing the same to be forged, with intent to defraud. A man named Chi Tsan Tin, who knew the prisoner and acted on behalf of the police, went to 9, Winglok Street a few days ago and said to the prisoner, "Have you got any false notes?" Prisoner said, "Yes, I'll have some on the 3rd December." Witness then asked, "What is the value of a note?" and the reply was "\$20 for a \$50 note. If you buy a note don't use it in Hongkong; use it in Amoy." On the 2nd December witness informed a Chinese policeman that there was a seller of false notes in the colony, and Inspector Stanton took the matter in hand and gave the witness \$20 to buy a note. Witness saw the prisoner again, and handed him the \$20 and also an additional \$2 which the prisoner said he wanted as commission. They then went over to Samsui, where the prisoner gave witness the forged \$50 note. The accused was remanded until Friday. There was a further charge of disposing of a forged \$5 note which had been altered to \$50, and this case was also remanded.

The accused was subsequently committed for trial on both charges.

THE PEARL ROBBERY.

ALLEGED MISCARRIAGE OF JUSTICE.

At the Magistracy on Wednesday, before Mr. T. Sercombe Smith, Fung Tim, a hairdresser, was summoned for giving false particulars to a pawnbroker when pawning certain jewellery, the property of Ho Tsat, who is the seventh concubine of Chan Tung Tang. The case had aroused considerable interest amongst the Chinese community, and the court was crowded. The jewellery in question was alleged to have been stolen by a boy, who, it will be remembered, was sent to gaol for two years at the last Criminal Sessions, and it was the defendant, who was Ho Tsat's hairdresser, who pawned the property. Mr. E. Robinson (instructed by Mr. Montrose) appeared to prosecute, Mr. C. Ewens defended, and Mr. Hastings (of Mr. V. H. Deacon's office) watched the case on behalf of Ho Tsat.

Mr. Robinson said there were four summonses against the defendant, who was alleged to have given a false name and address when pawning Ho Tsat's jewellery on the 24th September and 3rd and 19th October, and when redeeming part of the jewellery on the 29th September. Mr. Robinson proceeded: The articles in question were stolen and the charge of robbery was heard before the Magistrate and also at the Supreme Court. On these occasions neither the defendant nor the pawnbroker was called upon to give evidence, and in regard to the present defendant, although she was brought to the station for the purpose of being named in connection with the previous case, at the request of the persons who were conducting the prosecution, a private one she was released, it being stated at the time that she was a material witness in that case. If necessary I shall be able to prove that she was not called by the persons who secured her release. I refer to that in this case because it may be necessary for me to call evidence which will be practically adverse to my case, and I mention the matter in that connection.

Ho Tsat, who said "Yes" in response to Mr. Robinson's question "You allege that you lost some jewellery?" gave formal evidence of her name and address. Her address was 53, Praya Central, and she had never lived at the address given by the defendant, nor had she used any other name but her own.

In reply to Mr. Ewens witness said that in addition to the jewellery, which was worth \$3,000, she had several thousand dollars in a Chinese bank. When she missed the jewellery Kut Hing, a girl, told her that she had taken it and handed it to the prisoner in the other case. Later Inspector Quincey and an

assistant from the pawnbroker's shop visited witness's house, and the pawnbroker was shown the servants, but not the defendant, and their photographs, and did not identify from amongst them the person who pawned the goods.

In answer to Mr. Robinson witness said the money in the bank was a fixed deposit, and was placed there by her husband.

Chan Kan Shau, manager of the Wai Hing pawnshop, 75, Queen's Road Central, said he had known the defendant several months, and he had had many dealings with her before September last. Once when she pawned some jewellery she said she was acting for her mistress, who was in want of money. She gave a false name, and on other occasions she gave various names of persons whom she said she was acting for.

The witness's evidence was not concluded, and the case was adjourned.

ROYAL HONGKONG YACHT CLUB.

The Third Club race was sailed on Sunday. The wind was fairly strong at the start, but fell lighter all through the race, the end being little more than a drift with the tide. The course was from the Police Pier, Kowloon, round Cosmopolitan Dock Buoy (port), North Fairway Buoy (starboard), Mark Boat off Chung Hue (starboard), Stonecutters (starboard); 14 miles.

The following boats started in the first class:—

<i>Petrel</i>	Mr. Morton Jones
<i>Payne</i>	Royal Engineers
<i>Stella</i>	Mr. C. Murray Adamson
<i>Ladybird</i>	Mr. J. Hastings
<i>Erica</i>	Mr. A. Denison
<i>Meteor</i>	Mr. T. W. Lammiert
<i>Princess</i>	Mr. J. McKie

In the Second class,

<i>She</i>	Mr. C. H. Gale
<i>Eileen</i>	Hon. Lee Dillon, R.B.

and Handicap class,

<i>Arrow</i>	Lieut. Carey, R.A.
<i>Spunkadillo</i>	Lieut. Staveley, R.B.

The starting line was crossed at 11.15. *Payne* and *Erica* leading, with *She*, *Petrel*, *Ladybird*, and *Princess* close up. The start was one of the prettiest sights we have seen, all the boats crossing within a few yards of each other. In the reach down to the Cosmopolitan Dock buoy *Princess* and *Ladybird* picked up a little on the leaders and this mark was rounded by *Payne*, *Erica*, *Princess*, and *Ladybird* within forty seconds. The following were the times of the boats:

	H.	M.	S.
<i>Payne</i>	11	36	12
<i>Erica</i>	11	36	25
<i>Princess</i>	11	36	36
<i>Ladybird</i>	11	36	59
<i>Meteor</i>	11	37	30
<i>Dart</i>	11	38	30
<i>Stella</i>	11	38	30
<i>Petrel</i>	11	38	45
<i>She</i>	11	39	30
<i>Eileen</i>	11	41	25

The *Payne* unfortunately scraped her main boom with the buoy and hauled down her flag, but sailed round the course.

A broad reach with a short run at the end, brought the boats to the North fairway buoy. *Dart* and *Petrel* falling to the rear on the way, and the mark was passed as follows:—

	H.	M.	S.
<i>Erica</i>	11	57	30
<i>Princess</i>	11	57	55
<i>Ladybird</i>	11	58	22
<i>Stella</i>	12	0	0
<i>Meteor</i>	12	0	20
<i>Dart</i>	12	2	40
<i>Petrel</i>	12	2	46
<i>She</i>	12	2	54
<i>Eileen</i>	12	10	48

In the run down to Chung Hue mark the wind, which had been east so far, made a sudden change to north, and *Princess* went by *Erica* into first place and this mark was rounded in the following order:—*Princess*, *Erica*, *Ladybird*, *Meteor*, *Stella*, *Petrel*, *She*, *Dart*, *Eileen*. In the beat up to the east end of Stonecutters Island the breeze fell away almost entirely. *Ladybird* and *Meteor* both passed *Erica* and these four went away from the rest of the fleet. When near the powder magazine at

Stonecutters' *Erica* drifted past *Meteor* into third place and on the reach along Kowloon shore *Ladybird*, which had gone wind hunting too near the Docks, was becalmed for some time, and *Erica*, carrying way from one cat's paw to another, was able to get in front of her. *Princess* had never lost the wind entirely and finished an easy winner, *Erica* being second, and *Ladybird* third.

The line was crossed at the finish by the boats as follows:—

	H.	M.	S.
<i>Princess</i>	2	26	20
<i>Erica</i>	2	34	30
<i>Ladybird</i>	2	35	38
<i>Meteor</i>	2	42	40
<i>Stella</i>	2	53	08
<i>She</i>	3	9	50

The marks gained by the boats are as follows:—

CHAMPIONSHIP. SECOND CLASS.	
<i>Erica</i>18	<i>She</i> 30
<i>Princess</i>15	
HANDICAP CLASS.	
<i>Dart</i>10	<i>Arrow</i> 10
<i>Payne</i>1	
<i>Ladybird</i>1	

The Regatta races will start from near the flagship at Kowloon at 1.15 on Thursday and Friday next. Any partially decked or decked boats may start. For particulars see programmes of Regatta, which can be obtained at the Victoria Recreation Club.

CRICKET.

SCOTLAND v. THE WORLD.

The annual fixture of Scotland v. The World was played on the Cricket ground on Friday and Saturday, and resulted in a win for Scotland by 69 runs on the first innings. The World appeared to have rather the best of it on paper—in spite of the absence of two or three players who might have materially strengthened the side—but Scotland, who are better represented this season than they have been for some years, and who had the good fortune to win the toss, always had just the best of the game and eventually won pretty comfortably as stated above. This result was brought about by some very indifferent fielding on the part of the World in the first innings, and by two unfortunate misunderstandings between Hancock and Vallings in the first case, and between Darby and Eccles in the second, whereby two good wickets were thrown away. The noteworthy incidents of the first innings of Scotland were the batting of Anton and F. Maitland, the former knocking up 77 out of the first 107 runs by free and vigorous hitting before he was bowled by Firth; and F. Maitland carrying his bat for a carefully played but hard hit 90. Both the batsmen were indebted to the field upon more than one occasion and Maitland should have been caught before he had made a run. In spite of these blemishes their innings were of course of the greatest value to their side. Firth and Hancock were most successful with the ball, with 4 wickets each, but Hancock had much the best of the analysis. Special mention should be made of Paley's performance behind the wickets. He was directly responsible for the dismissal of three batsman, and his keeping was of the closest description throughout; a record of 2 byes in a score of 234 speaks for itself.

The World opened their innings with Knox and Hancock, but with the total at 7 the former succumbed to one of Stewart's deliveries. He was succeeded by Vallings, who with his partner carried the total to 72, when Hancock in attempting a second run was run out, a *contretemps* for which Vallings must take the lion's share of the blame. The retiring batsman had played good cricket for 33 runs. Firth did not trouble the scorer for long and soon after his departure Vallings, who had made 19, the highest score on his side, gave a chance to Lowson, which he gladly accepted. The only other batsmen who offered any opposition to the bowling were Sanderson and Darby, who contributed 25 and 27 respectively; and the innings eventually closed for the very moderate total of 165. Stewart and Lowson divided the bowling honours. The former kept one excellent length throughout and at one period of the game sent down six consecutive maidens.

It being almost but of the question to expect that there would be time to alter the decision arrived at on the first innings, the second attempt of Scotland was deprived of a good deal of its interest. This time they put together 123 only—at one time they had 4 wickets down for 29—but when their last batsman was out only twenty minutes remained for play. The chief contributions were from E. W. Maitland, Lowson, and G. Stewart, the latter's 36 being a very spirited performance.

The members of the Club were indebted to the courtesy of Col. St. Paul and the officers of the Rifle Brigade and to Major Faithful and the officers of the Hongkong Regiment for the pleasure of having music upon the ground upon both days.

SCOTLAND.

G. D. Campbell, H. K.R., b Firth	11	b Vallings	19
A. S. Anton, b Firth	77	c Sanderson, b Darby	7
Capt. Ferguson, R.B., b Firth	5	st. Paley, b Firth	0
E. W. Maitland, c Knox, b Darby	11	b Firth	21
F. Maitland, not out	90	c Darby, b Vallings	0
J. A. Lowson, b Firth	30	c Paley, b Sanderson	27
A. Anderson, b Hancock	18	c Hancock, b Firth	8
A. Stewart, b Hancock	3	st. Paley, b Darby	0
G. Stewart, c and b Darby	4	c and b Darby	36
B. P. Sheldon, c Ellis b Hancock	4	b Eccles	1
W. Taylor, c Vallings, b Hancock	6	not out	1
Extras	2	Extras	3

Total 234 Total 123

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

First Innings.

	Overs.	Maid.	Runs.	Wides.	N.B.	Wicket.
Vallings	12	4	44	—	—	—
Firth	24	4	61	—	—	4
Darby	19	1	81	—	—	2
Hancock	10.25	—	24	—	—	4
Davies	4	1	22	—	—	—

Second Innings.

Firth	23	11	22	—	—	3
Darby	16	3	55	1	—	2
Vallings	9	3	19	—	—	2
Hancock	6	3	8	—	—	—
Sanderson	2	—	6	—	—	1
Eccles	1.35	—	10	—	—	2

THE WORLD.

H. R. B. Hancock, run out	56
C. W. Knox, R.B., b A. Stewart	3
Rev. G. Vallings, c Lowson, b A. Stewart	49
C. M. Firth, b Anderson	5
L. Sanderson, R.B., b Lowson	25
S. L. Darby, l.b.w., b A. Stewart	27
Capt. Eccles, R.B., run out	3
Surg.-Major Reader, A.M.S., b A. Stewart	4
E. C. Ellis, l.b.w., Lowson	4
P. G. Davies, R.A., b Lowson	1
G. Paley, R.B., not out	0
Extras	4

Total 165

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

First Inning.

	Overs.	Maid.	Runs.	Wides.	N.B.	Wicket.
Lowson	24.15	4	74	—	—	3
A. Stewart	19	6	56	—	—	4
E. W. Maitland	4	—	17	—	—	—
A. Anderson	4	1	10	1	—	1

Second Innings.

Lowson	4	2	3	—	—	—
A. Stewart	5	2	5	—	—	—
A. Anderson	1.15	—	9	—	—	1

FOOTBALL.

H.K.F.C. v. C COMPANY R.B.

A close struggle was witnessed on Monday afternoon at the Happy Valley between the Hongkong Football Club and C Company, R.B. In the first half a splendid shot by Mackay just missed the entry by a few inches. In the second half both teams played their hardest and it was clear that there was not much to choose between them. Rowcroft put in a good shot which landed into the goalkeeper's hands, then went over the bar. A few seconds before time was called the Army custodian had much work to perform. First he had to fist, then the ball returning caused him to kick, at the same time he sustained a heavy charge, and immediately afterwards the ball, which he had well removed, was seen to have fallen on Oliver's head about thirty yards from goal. Oliver then raised it considerably and sent it under the bar. The whistle blew, and the combatants retired, the Hongkong Football Club having won the match by one goal to nil.

A notification appears in the *Gazette* with reference to the insurance of parcels sent by parcel post to India. It is headed "Parcel post to the United Kingdom and the principal countries of Europe."

HONGKONG RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

There were fourteen members present last Saturday to compete for the Short Range Cup, which was won by Colour-Sergeant Hopkins, R.B., with a very good score of 64. The Spoons were taken by Corporal Wooldrige and Mr. E. Robinson. The following were the best scores:—

	200 yds.	300 yds.	Handicap	Total
Cr.-Sergt. Hopkins.	32	32	—	64
Corporal Wooldrige.	34	29	—	63
Mr. E. Robinson	34	22	6	62
Mr. R. Rutter	29	24	8	61
Mr. J. Andrew	29	25	6	60
Captain Ferguson	32	27	—	59

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

THE LIGHT AND PASS REGULATION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Sir,—May I draw the attention of the Government through the medium of your valuable columns to the fact that certain members of the police force have been in the habit of detaining persons who violated the night pass regulations until their number reached twenty before taking them to the police station. The persons arrested were made to squat down in the street, however respectable or well dressed they might be, and the first man who was arrested has had to wait for an hour or so before he was joined by the last of the nineteen others. Thanking you in anticipation,—Yours faithfully,

A. B. C.

Hongkong, 4th December, 1895.

LIGHT IN THE "CHINA MAIL."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—The following is an "elegant extract" from your contemporary:—"It is easy for any Chinaman of good standing to get an annual pass, which exempts him from carrying a light, and he has no further trouble at all, and the malcontents who lift up their voices about highly respectable men who must carry a lamp, as in the *Daily Press*, are simply saying what is not true." I see no harm in highly respectable men in the *Daily Press* carrying a lamp, but I should have thought it unnecessary, as I see you use the brilliant Welbach burners, whilst the *China Mail* has only miserable little kerosine "glims." Indeed, is not the *Daily Press* itself the one great light which lights the whole "colony and its dependencies?" But in regard to "no further trouble at all," allow me to inform the *China Mail* and its clients the police that two nights ago the holder of an annual pass was arrested. He showed it to the policeman, who, notwithstanding, marched him off to the station. Fortunately they met on the way a European constable to whom my friend appealed and was then released. A Chinaman on whom I can rely told me to-day that he saw the holder of an annual pass tied up by his queue, along with others to a telephone post.

As another instance of the inconvenience of this "new kick" on the part of the police I may mention that two of my chair coolies, who do not happen to sleep on the premises at present, did not turn up this morning. Last night I did not go home till a little after seven and these men on proceeding to their domicile just after that hour were, they allege, arrested for having no pass or light.

The fact is these spasmodic convulsions on the part of the police have brought the conduct of the force into the utmost contempt. It is equally the same whether it is ruled by a professional policeman, as Mr. Horspool, a boy cadet, or a veteran warrior. Two years ago we had a more ridiculous, if less inconvenient, illustration of it in the sudden enforcement of the Ordinance, in the most unintelligent manner, in regard to European dogs, while the mangy ownerless Chinese curs were allowed to run free. In the same manner the hawkers and chair and rickshaw coolies are raided at intervals of a year or two. Possibly the fault is to be looked for in "a higher place." We have frequent changes of Governors and Administrators and each one

has his own fads. Shanghai thinks it wants a Governor; we in Hongkong pray the gods that we might be allowed to do without one. As an old resident I consider the light and pass law a good one. As far as I can remember it was given effect to in a reasonable manner, and was not objected to by the Chinese, till Hennessy ordered that it should not be carried out. Can we hope under our bureaucratic system of government to ever have the laws enforced with DISCRETION?

Hongkong, 4th December, 1895.

THE WATER SUPPLY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

DEAR SIR,—I should feel obliged if you would be good enough to allow me a small space in your valuable paper to make the following matter publicly known. After being left this morning without any supply of water whatever, I made enquiries and found that my neighbours had been put to the same great inconvenience. As far as I have been able to ascertain, the reason the P.W.D. decided to leave us without a drop of water today was on account of a tap in one of the neighbouring houses having been broken and left unrepaired. It is decidedly hard to only have the opportunity of obtaining water during one or two hours of the day, but when it comes to having the water supply cut off entirely without receiving any notice whatever, I think an occupier of a house has good reason to complain.—I am, dear sir, yours respectfully,

K.

First Belilios Terrace, 8th December, 1895.

ANOTHER "CITY OF DREADFUL NIGHT."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

DEAR SIR,—Now that the police administration are exhibiting such unwonted activity in carrying out the Ordinances regarding passes and lamps, may I be privileged to draw the attention of the public to another evil and (in the opinion of those who have to endure it) a more urgent one, which the Hongkong constabulary might be instructed to suppress as soon as possible. I refer, sir, to the absolute pandemonium which exists in this street (Queen's Road East) every night of the week without intermission between the hours of ten p.m. and one a.m. These orgies are caused principally by the men of the mercantile marine, "Our Jack" and other nations' "Jacks" figure as a good second in what is apparently a competition, and Monsieur Atkins is not altogether innocent. These gentlemen amuse themselves and distract others by forming ricksha processions up and down this street and yelling and screaming and singing till they are perfectly unable to continue owing to their generally being thoroughly primed with fire-water supplied them by some of the aristocratic establishments to the far westward of this same street. One warrior in Her Majesty's land forces has adopted a rather unique method of informing us that he comes of an imbecile stock; he generally when on the spree gratifies his excited disposition by imitating the calls of a rooster, but as this militant swain is undoubtedly affected with pulmonary phthisis his efforts are not appreciated, and I trust he will accept this the only intimation. No doubt a great share of blame is due to the shanty keepers before referred to, but the authorities controlling these men might be persuaded to give them a little advice on the matter, as what with the universally famed cats here one has quite enough to do to induce sleep without these midnight revelries.—I beg to remain, dear sir, yours faithfully,

"QUILLDRIVER."

Queen's Road East, 9th December, 1895.

The N. C. Daily News says:—It is reported that the bigoted but clean-handed Governor of Shantung, Li Ping-heng, has memorialised against railways in spite of the fact that they are now in favour with the Emperor and his Council of Ministers. Apparently, Li Ping-heng's arguments were rather strong according to Chinese lights, for it is said that there appears to be a sudden cooling of the enthusiasm of the Peking officials in the matter of the Grand Trunk railway between the capital and Chinkiang.

THE INTERNATIONAL COTTON MANUFACTURING CO., LIMITED.

On the 28th November the first statutory meeting of the above Company was held at the offices of the American Trading Company, Shanghai. Mr. William Brand presided, and there were present, Messrs. E. A. Probst, J. Jones, J. L. Scott, Chew Shing-ching, J. F. Seaman, Chok Sian-yiu, Chu Pao-sa (Directors), Ting Wai-kee, Chang Lin-chi, Ying Kwan-dah, Wilmer, Harris, J. M. Young, B. A. Clarke, W. S. Jackson, J. Ambrose, A. W. Danforth, H. J. Limby, Chen Foong-chang, E. P. Wickham, F. Gove, W. S. Emens (Secretary), and H. S. Wilkinson (Legal Adviser), representing in all 2,836 shares.

Mr. EMENS having read the notice convening the meeting,

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, there being no report or statement of accounts to place before you I will gladly avail myself of the opportunity this formal meeting presents to give you a short sketch of what your directors have been engaged in. At the outset the provisional directors invited Mr. Probst and Mr. Scott to join the Board of Direction, and we were much gratified when they cordially responded to the invitation. Since then we have invited Mr. Chu Pao-sa, a leading member of the Ningpo Guild, to join us on the Board. He willingly responded and has taken his seat accordingly. This makes up the full number of directors as provided by our articles of association. As often happens at the starting of new undertakings unavoidable delays take place, and in our endeavours to obtain a site for our mill we have had to pass through a little of this experience. We finally settled, however, upon the plot of ground on the Pootung side of the Whangpoo immediately to the south of the Customs Signal Station, called lot 1,996, better known as Muirhead's property, comprising about 53 *mow*, more or less. This site we have acquired by lease and without going into all the minutiae and details, I can I think give you in a few words the leading points of the lease. Our lease is for 999 years. At present a portion of the lot is leased to others, say until 31st December, 1903, unless terminated sooner, when the International Cotton Manufacturing Company become lessees of the whole lot. Our rent until the expiration of the lease just referred to is to be Tls. 5,000 per annum and after that until 1st November, 1920, say twenty-five years hence, Tls. 6,000 per annum. Thereafter it is on a sliding scale according to arrangements stipulated between the lessors and ourselves. All buildings at present standing on said lot to be taken at valuations to be agreed upon. I may say that a number of the buildings have only lately been erected and will prove very useful for our requirements. All bunding and filling in to be done by the lessees. The rent to be paid quarterly. Power is taken for the lessees to terminate the lease at the end of the first and every successive period of twenty-five years. The law of England is to apply to the lease and the lease is to be registered at the British Consulate-General. This site we consider a most advantageous one, being situated in the centre of the harbour, having a river frontage, and, above all, having long been in occupation is suitable for immediate use as regards building purposes. Necessary bunding operations have been going on for some time and the foundations for the mill will be commenced upon almost immediately. The designing and superintending the erection of the mill has been entrusted to Mr. Ambrose, a name, I am sure, well known to all of you. Mr. Ambrose has had a wide experience in the erecting and supervising of buildings in Shanghai, and I am confident we could not place our interests in better hands. Some of the plans have been placed upon the wall of this room; that in the centre shows the front elevation which faces the Customs Signal Station, likewise the end elevation which faces the river. Recognising that when the mill will be in full working order, the operatives will not have the same easy facilities of transit that are enjoyed by those living in our foreign Settlement, or near to our public roads, it has seemed incumbent that we should be prepared to

offer them house accommodation; and a favourable opportunity presenting itself of acquiring some land immediately in the rear of lot 1,996, that is to the east of it, we have arranged for about 40 *mow* more or less. This we have acquired by purchase and will deal with it later on as the mill approaches completion. We have contracted for the machinery and plant for the mill, and have arranged that it comes out from England in detachments as wanted, the first shipment commencing in January next. This will enable us to start work with 20,000 or 25,000 spindles without waiting for the erection of the full complement contracted for, viz., 40,000 spindles. This contract has been placed with Messrs. Asa Lees & Co., Limited, of Oldham, a firm of the highest standing, from whose hands we feel confident in getting the best that can be produced and they guarantee us a perfect outfit. Such, gentlemen, is a brief outline of what we have arranged. One great aim we have always had in view, viz., that everything should be of the highest order, in the strong hope that it will materially conduce to make the product of a like nature, a consummation that must prove beneficial to our customers as well as our shareholders. Some of you may ask when we may see the produce of the mill. In the ordinary course of events we hope the mill will be erected and in working order before next cotton season comes round. Should we, however, have a severe winter we must be prepared for delays, as they are sure to follow. But as the months pass you will be able to watch the progress made in the erection of the buildings and to form for yourselves a very correct idea of when they may be completed. As regards the capital of the Company there are at present 4,854 shares allotted, and over one thousand further shares have been arranged for, representing in the aggregate about Tls. 600,000. Several applicants for very considerable amounts were and have been promised shares, but until a deposit has been paid thereon we do not consider ourselves warranted in bringing them into our calculation, nor do we hold ourselves bound for an indefinite time to allot them, at the same time we have good grounds for believing that all that is required will be subscribed. Having leased the site for the mills saves the whole outlay for the ground, so that whilst we can readily utilise the full amount of Tls. 800,000, we can at present, if need be, work with a smaller amount of capital. Before concluding I might mention that according to our articles of association we must hold subsequent general meetings in the month of March or in the month of April of each year unless we determine in general meeting to the contrary. The Board is of opinion that it would be somewhat superfluous to hold a meeting in March or April next year, and advise that our next general meeting be held in the month of October, 1896, and a resolution to this effect will be laid before you. Before doing so, however, I shall be glad so far as I am able to answer any questions that shareholders may wish to put.

There being no questions,

The CHAIRMAN proposed—That the next general meeting of this Company be held during the month of October, 1896.

Mr. J. F. SEAMAN seconded, and the resolution was carried *nem. con.*

This concluded the proceedings.—N. C. Daily News.

WHY RAILWAYS HAVE NOT BEEN BUILT IN CHINA.

For thirty-five years the Chinese high officials have known of the value of railways and for twenty years, while several have advocated their construction, there has always been a strong current of opposition to railways. It is reported that the chief arguments used against railways were drawn up by the Chinese Secretary of Legation in London. While Kwoh Sungtao, his chief, advocated the adoption of railways by his Government his Secretary, owing to a private quarrel with his chief, wrote a private despatch against railways, and this is now the standby of almost all the Conservatives. As the document has occupied such a prominent position, to the detriment of untold millions of Chinese and almost the ruin

of the Empire, we give the substance of it below:—

I.—There are eight reasons why railways should not be made.

II.—There are eight disadvantages in having railways.

III.—There are nine dangers in having railways.

Ist.—The eight reasons for not having railways in China are:—

1.—The Chinese are not honest enough to be entrusted with the enormous sums of money which is necessary for such a great work. Foreigners handle 70 or 80 millions sterling without any dishonesty, while the China Merchants' Co., with one three hundredth part of such capital, pays no proper dividend.

2.—Railways require enormous capital even for such a small country as England. It is far beyond the power of China to find capital for such a vast Empire as ours.

3.—Christians do not know that the seats of many gods are in the mountains and valleys. By opening tunnels to disturb the rest of these gods who knows what droughts and floods and other calamities might befall us?

4.—In the West the capitalists themselves superintend the railways, whereas in China they will be managed by mandarins and they will swindle all round.

5.—In the West anybody can report anyone who has neglected his duty on public service. But in China none but their superiors can, so there is no security for faithfulness.

6.—In foreign countries no poor are allowed to go about stealing, but, when the Woosung railway was bought up by the Chinese, within a month the very rails from the road were stolen.

7.—In foreign countries the railway is done by time. In China there are so many Customs barriers that if the train is run according to time then the Customs dues cannot be collected.

8.—Five Chinese require more room than ten foreigners, as they carry so much luggage with them. Even the soldiers do so.

2nd.—Eight disadvantages in having railways:—

1.—The advocate for railways says:—Although there are difficulties in swallowing we cannot get on without food; so with railways.

But really there is no good to be got from them. The good of England and Europe is from all other countries; whereas, if railways are opened in all the provinces of China, one province will only be robbing the other. Where is the good?

2.—The advocate also says:—By transporting more goods to the ports we shall have more gain from other countries.

But this is not thinking that if more produce is transported to the ports the price will go down! Only Russia, England, France, and Austria deal in tea and silk. As the population of these countries does not increase, the demand will not increase. Germany, although it has opened up railways like England, cannot catch up with England; besides, China has no manufactures to export abroad.

3.—The advocate also says:—Travelling will be much more convenient than now.

The customs of the West are such that the women give no rest to their husbands at home. They compel them to travel with them from place to place. As the customs are different in China such conveniences are only a disadvantage.

4.—The advocate also says:—Borrow foreign money to build railways. Foreigners lend money at 2 or 3 per cent.; railways give 4 or 5 per cent.

If China borrows money the mandarin gets a share, the Chinese agent gets a share, the foreign agent gets a share, till the interest which China has to pay for foreign money gets to be very high, owing to these lenders and swindlers. When a higher interest than 4.8 per cent. is charged it is all pocketed by the money lenders.

5.—The advocate also says:—By having railways the mandarins can examine matters themselves by going to the spot.

Does not the advocate know that the yamens are often the source of the greatest disorders right before the eyes of the mandarin. The

remedy is to be found in the character of the mandarin, not in the railway convenience.

6.—The advocate also says:—That with railways there will be less need of soldiers.

But this is forgetting that troubles often rise in China through disbanding soldiers, and the country may be lost in that way.

7.—The advocate also says:—By having railways mines can be easier opened, as there is easier method of transport.

This is forgetting that in former dynasties they were able to work mines without the use of railways. They do not know that England's coal is about to be used up. If China sells coal to their steamers they will stay on here without fear. Let the people open the mines as they please. Why should the Government provide expensive railways for them?

8.—The advocate likewise says:—By opening a railway to Chinkiangpoo from Peking, then, in case of war, grain can be transported that way.

This is not knowing that grain can be transported overland in part of the journey and save a round of 600 li. This is the way to save time and economise! Can arriving in one day and one night counterbalance this?

3rd.—The dangers of having railways.

1.—When the poor sell their land for railways they will squander the money and will never recover it.

2.—At present 10 million taels annually leave China; if railways are opened 100 million taels will go abroad annually and foreigners will be getting all the higher work. Moreover, if borrowed money is not paid back the nations will give no more rest to China than they gave to Turkey.

3.—Customs will be injured by railways. The country people are better than the villagers and villagers are better than the town folks. When railways are introduced all the evil customs of the towns are brought down to the villages and the country.

4.—The railway will raise the prices of meat and cereals. This I saw in the museum in Berlin, by comparing the prices before and after the building of railways.

5.—Railways clear away natural obstructions to the progress of the enemy.

6.—When the railway is opened poor natives will hire themselves to serve foreign nations and lead them into the interior as they did thirty-five years ago.

7.—When a railway is built with foreign money it has to be mortgaged to them. Again, if our soldiers are equal to others, we have nothing to fear; but if others are superior to ours then we have much to fear.

8.—When railways are opened and there are many robbers about, as in China, if they capture the train, how can they be captured?

9.—Even when railways are opened throughout the Empire they only reach a tithe of the land; the nine-tenths are still without the convenience of transport. But if you do not believe these things borrow 70 millions and build a railway and then you will soon discover the harm.

Many foreign speculators come to China to see if they cannot get some great bargain made for their own ends.

Be not led astray by strange things and squander a large fortune over one meal. Let our youth continue the study of our ancient classics; that is best.

It is useless to point out the folly of the above arguments; they are Chinese and childlike. An ordinary schoolboy could upset the Secretary's foolish reasonings.—*Mercury*.

THIRTEEN HUNDRED REFORMERS IN CHINA.

When the Japanese were gaining ground everywhere and the Chinese Government was arranging to make peace, there was a tremendous stir throughout all the literary circle in Peking, especially among the *chüjen* who had come to the capital for their *chünshih* degree. They thought it was an unendurable disgrace for China to sue for peace. While in this mood a young Cantonese, *chüjen*, Liang Ki-ch'ao by name, conceived the idea of writing a memorial and getting it signed by several others. He got over a hundred names to his. Three

Hunan men got some tens of names to do the same with theirs and they went to the Censors' yamen asking them to memorialise the Emperor for them. Then the *chüjen* of Fukien, of Széchnen, of Kiangsi, and of Kueichou followed suit. Then those of Kiangsu, of Hupeh, of Shensi, of Kansu, and of Kwangsi did the same. These again were followed by those of Chihli, of Shantung, of Shansi, of Honan, and of Yunnan, so that on the 28th and 30th of the 3rd moon, the 2nd, the 4th, and the 6th of the 4th moon (the days when the Censorate received petitions) the street outside the Censors' yamen was filled with carts, horses, and official caps. Having waited for some days and seeing no report in the *Peking Gazette* they decided to combine the whole into one grand memorial from all the provinces and the so-called "modern sage" of China, K'ang Yen-wei, was asked to draw up the whole in one document. This he did in a memorial containing 18,000 characters and it was signed by over 1,000 *chüjen*. So says one of the prefaces to this remarkable document. But the number of names given in the document is 604. As the peace treaty with Japan was to be ratified at Chefoo on the 14th of the 4th moon (the 8th of May, 1895), it was decided to present this united memorial from the *chüjen* of the whole empire at the Censors' yamen on the 10th of the 4th moon. But alas! the Government decided to ratify the Treaty on the 8th and they found that they were too late. Finally the manager of the Photolithographic establishment in Shanghai secured a copy. It is published in order that all nations may know that there are men still in China who were ready not only to fight in the present emergency but also to make such reforms as will secure their independence and honour in the future.

The object of the memorial is stated to be to petition the Emperor to issue an edict.

I.—To create a patriotic spirit.

II.—To remove the capital to Hsianfu in Shensi.

III.—To raise and drill armies.

IV.—To make reforms.

In order that peace may not be signed, that the outer barbarians be repelled, that our country be preserved, and that our dynasty be prolonged.

I.—To create a patriotic spirit five things are necessary.

1.—Reform. Laws and regulations like utensils become old and useless and new ones must be provided according to the needs of the times.

2.—Confess sins like the ancient Emperors! Call upon all to wipe out the nation's disgrace as if avenging a personal enemy.

3.—Punish unworthy officials.

4.—Employ better men.

5.—Don't listen to Japan about not punishing those who were engaged in war.

II.—Remove the capital. The present is too near the sea and therefore is too easy of access to all foreign nations. The former treaties were all made from fear of losing the capital. Put it at a safe distance and former humiliations will not be repeated.

III.—Raise and drill an army.

The indemnity asked for by Japan (Tls. 200,000,000) should be used to equip the army.

Young generals should be elected who are not bound by old and out-of-date methods and encouraged to raise armies and drill them night and day.

The barbarous nations are constantly making new guns. (Here they give the names of the different guns and rifles used by the different armies of Europe and America.) While barbarous nations buy the new and discard the old, we buy up the discarded rifles of Siam; how can we prosper? they say.

IV.—Reforms. So long as we have only a revenue of Tls. 70,000,000 how can China ever repay an indemnity of Tls. 200,000,000? Various reforms are necessary.

A.—To enrich the people six things are necessary.

1.—Must establish Banks. By means of these the financing of the nation in regard to all matters will be easy.

2.—Must have railways. Their savings to the country will be very great.

3.—Must encourage machinery.

4.—Open coal mines.

5.—Coinage. Instead of the millions of dollars which come in from abroad now annually and which are alloyed with large quantities of lead, coin our own. Besides we do not want the year of Christ put on our coins.

6.—Post offices.

B.—There are four other ways of benefiting the people.

1.—Agricultural reforms.

2.—Technical training and patents.

3.—Encourage trade so as to be delivering instead of destroying the nation. Note the exports and imports.

4.—Provide for the poor.

(1) Let the manufacturers (producers) be increased and the transporters (distributors) lessened. About Tientsin 60 per cent. are carriers, while the producers are only 40 per cent.

(2) Let there be emigration and colonising as the British do in Canada and the Russians in Siberia.

(3) Let there be reformatory schools.

(4) Let there be poor relief.

C.—Reform of Education.

1.—What is studied by all other nations should be studied by China.

2.—There should be an increase in the number of educated, for other nations have 70 or 80 per cent. able to read, while China has no more than 20 per cent.

3.—Military training should be changed into technical training.

4.—A new system of examination of those who have been studying in colleges without a fixed number of passes.

5.—Have public libraries.

6.—Have newspapers and magazines of all kinds to encourage different departments of learning.

7.—Found a religious department of education. The customs of our country are degenerating fast because we have no religious teachers! Thus it is that the depraved religions of foreign barbarians spring up and deceive our people. Every province is full of chapels, whilst we have only one temple in each county for our sage Confucius. Is this not painful? Let religious instruction be given in each county. Let all the charitable institutions help. Let all the unowned temples and charity guilds be made into temples of the Confucian religion and thus make the people good and stop the progress of strange doctrines (Christianity). Let the most advanced students of Confucianism be called up by the Emperor to the capital and given the Hanlin degree and funds to go abroad. If they succeed in establishing schools in foreign countries where are gathered 1,000 pupils let them be ennobled! Thus we shall take Confucianism and with it civilise all the barbarians, and under the cloak of preaching Confucianism travel abroad and quickly learn the motives of the barbarians and extend the fame of our country!

D.—Rearrange the officials both in the capital and provinces as suggested by former noted mandarins.

E.—Have a college to teach foreign affairs to those who shall become Ministers abroad.

F.—Let there be more travelling abroad like Peter the Great instead of the princes and nobility staying at home and knowing nothing.

G.—Let the power of memorialising the Throne be much extended instead of leaving all power in the hands of a few Viceroy and Governors as now, by which the Emperor has little chance of knowing the whole truth.

H.—Let the people, say every 100,000 families (half a million), elect one man to come to Peking and meet at the Tai Ho palace in the presence of the Emperor to discuss matters of national interest and make a fresh election each year. In this way the Emperor will soon know all.

When Bismarck thought of the changes that might be made within 100 degrees of longitude, 6,000 miles in length, a population of 400 millions, and 260,000 different products, he could not think of it without dread and at first advised the division of the empire. But finding that China procrastinated he said there was nothing to fear from it.

Turkey, because of its refusal to change, has been divided by six powers. Japan, though only a barbarous island, by changing has taken Lochoo away from us and invaded our empire.

If our parents were suffering from some dangerous illness we would strongly urge them to take the right medicine. China is now in very great danger and we therefore most anxiously urge the adoption of right measures for her safety.

After this follows the names of *chüjen*:—Kirin, 1; Chihli, 37; Kiangsu, 47; Anhui, 8; Shansi, 10; Shensi, 55; Kansu, 61; Fukien, 8; Kiangsi, 2; Hupeh, 4; Hunan, 4; Szechuen, 71; Kwangtung, 87; Kuangsi, 99; Yunnan, 15; Kueichou, 95; Honan, 0; Shantung, 0; Chékiang, 0; total, 604.

But the preface says 1,300 signed it. This may be after the original one was completed or including those who signed a similar memorial.

Such is the remarkable scheme of reform presented by the junior scholars of the empire. Considering the conservatism of China none can read this without admiring the boldness and thoroughness of many of the reforms. They have blemishes when they think they can save China by removing the capital, little thinking that the maritime provinces might then go off one by one like Annam, Taiwan, and other dependencies. When suggesting the raising and drilling of an army at once to meet a modern drilled army, it is just like expecting to sow and reap the harvest while a hungry man is waiting for his dinner. When suggesting a missionary society of the Confucian religion to go abroad, they do not say what they are going to elevate the foreign barbarians to by that process. When they think they can much improve the Chinese officials by a rearrangement of them, it seems very much like trying to make bad dollars good by wrapping them in different parcels and the only change is a new label "warranted pure" put on. When they suggest the adoption of about 90 per cent. of Christian civilisation, it is difficult to see what ground they have for saying that Christianity is a depraved religion which should be carefully avoided. But all these really arise out of one source mainly, and that is their imperfect knowledge about these subjects.

As to the other parts we have nothing but immense admiration for their thorough-going reforms. They have about twenty-seven lines of reform which would be of incalculable service to China. These reforms which they now advocate have been urged by the Christian missionaries and their best foreign friends, ever since foreign intercourse has been established, with all their might in spite of incessant abuse. If these *chüjen* were to frankly acknowledge their indebtedness to these foreigners instead of still maligning them as barbarians they would be far nearer accomplishing their ends. So long as hatred of foreigners is encouraged by the reformers there is no hope for them. When the East and the West agree to recognise each other by good, and do all in their power to assist one another in a world-wide effort instead of simply nourishing up national prejudice and party spirit, then shall real reform begin on a solid and universal basis. All success, however, to such beginners and may these who are first waking up in China as reformers go on in their noble work till the rest of China are waked up and till all nations are banded together in bonds of mutual regards and hearty goodwill.—N. C. Daily News.

THE "EDGAR" DISASTER.

The catastrophe at Chemulpo which resulted in the sudden death of nearly fifty petty officers and bluejackets of H.M.S. *Edgar* is to be the subject of an official enquiry at Nagasaki by Captain Norcock of H.M.S. *Caroline* and Captain Bigge of H.M.S. *Pique*. Meanwhile it appears to have been emphatically an accident for which no one can be held responsible. In the various accounts published there are, as might be expected, some small discrepancies, but they all agree in the main points. Sixty-five men and five officers left the *Edgar* early in the morning of the 13th ult. in a large launch (not a steamer) for Roze Island for drill. It was then calm, and the sea was perfectly smooth. At 11.30 a.m. they embarked again to return to their ship. The wind had got up in the interval, there was a considerable sea, on, and the tide was running very strong. So

little progress was made with the oars that it was determined to use the sails, and they were accordingly hoisted, double-reefed. The boat had been already taking water on board, and just after the sails were hoisted a squall struck her and she lay over, filled, and sank. Some of the crew of the Russian cruiser *Gremyastchy* had also been on Roze Island that morning, but had returned at 11 a.m. and the cruiser's steam launch was fortunately still alongside, with steam up. One of the *Gremyastchy's* lieutenants had been watching the *Edgar's* boat through his glasses the whole time, and he instantly despatched the steam launch to the scene of the catastrophe. She was the means of saving fourteen of those in the water, while a boat from the French cruiser *Alger*, which was also promptly on the spot, saved eight more, one of them dying after being rescued, though every effort was made for four or five hours to resuscitate him. The *Gremyastchy* remained at Chemulpo for a fortnight after the accident, but up to that time nothing had been seen of the bodies of the drowned or of the boat, though everything possible had been done to find them. Captain Henderson of the *Edgar* was visiting the British Consul-General at Seoul at the time the accident took place. The officers who were in the boat were Gunnery Lieut. E. F. Bruen, Sub-Lieut. E. H. Rymer, and Messrs. C. E. L. Thomas, R. G. Hobson, and G. Mackworth, midshipmen. The bright spot in the calamity is the promptitude with which the men-of-war of other nations in the harbour sent assistance. Political differences, if any exist, cannot weaken the feelings of comradeship and humanity that inspire men-of-war's men under whatever flag they may sail; and there is no British man-of-war afloat on which the names of the *Alger* and the *Gremyastchy* will not be remembered from this time forth with feelings of deep gratitude for their prompt kindness to the men of the *Edgar*.—N. C. Daily News.

TARIFF CONVENTION BETWEEN GREAT BRITAIN AND JAPAN.

The supplementary Convention provided for in the revised Treaty between Great Britain and Japan having been concluded and ratified, the ratifications were exchanged on the 21st November at the Foreign Office in Tokyo, their Excellencies Marquis Saionji and Sir Ernest Satow representing the High Contracting Parties. It will be remembered that the purpose of this Supplementary Convention, as defined in the protocol to the Treaty, was to convert the *ad valorem* duties mentioned in the new tariff into specific duties, as far as possible, the basis for such conversion being the medium prices, as shown by the Japanese Customs returns during the six calendar months preceding the date of the protocol, together with the cost of insurance and transportation, purchase, or fabrication to the port of discharge, as well as the commission, if any. The Convention was to have been concluded before the 16th of January in the present year—that is to say, within six months from the date of the Protocol, but it having been found impossible to finish the work in that time, owing to the immense increase of abnormal functions devolving on the Japanese Foreign Office in connection with the war, an extension of time until 16th July of the present year was agreed upon. The Convention having been concluded by that date was duly ratified, and the ratified document having arrived from England on the 14th November, ratifications were exchanged on the 21st. It may be presumed that the final settlement of this question will promote the progress of the negotiations now going on with other European powers.—Japan Mail.

Japanese vernacular papers publish a telegram said to have been received from London by the Yokohama Specie Bank announcing an intention on the part of England and Germany to take up China's bonds to enable her to pay off the whole indemnity to Japan. This, says the Japanese papers, is doubtless a piece of diplomacy directed against the plannings of France and Russia.

AFFAIRS IN NORTH HUPEH.

A correspondent writing from Laohokeo, North Hupeh, on November 1st, sends to the *China Gazette* the following interesting table of notable occurrences which have taken place in Hupeh and Honan since the Fuhkien massacre. The events recorded are sent down in their order of date:—

Siangiang Prefecture, Hupeh.—An anti-foreign riot occurred at Nanchang-hien and the premises belonging to the Roman Catholic Mission were destroyed. A native Catholic priest was reported to have been murdered, but the report needs confirmation.

At Laohokeo a scabble occurred at the door of the Protestant Mission between the door-keeper and a Customs officer, which was very nearly ending seriously. A huge crowd collected and started the cry "raze the chapel," which was eagerly repeated from mouth to mouth, and things were looking very grave for the missionaries, when a friendly military officer sent soldiers in disguise for their protection. The head of the local Customs afterwards apologised for the disturbance.

Special orders were sent to the Chien'iong to protect the foreigners. He visited the Italian, English, American, and Norwegian missions and informed the missionaries that he had instructions to take care of them and that they might rely on his alertness and energy in their interest.

The Governor of Hupeh issued a proclamation regarding the Szechuen riots and Fohkien massacre.

By common report the 15th day of the 8th moon was mentioned as the date of a projected anti-foreign rising. About twenty notable rowdies were arrested simultaneously and a number of banners bearing the inscription *Shuen Tshing mie iang* ("serve the Government by exterminating the foreigners") were captured.

It was with much regret that the foreigners of Laohokeo learned that the local magistrate was to be removed. He had all along evinced the utmost friendliness. His offence was said to be taking bribes for releasing prisoners.

Nan-ang Prefecture, Honan.—A riot occurred at She Ki-chen directed against the Customs authorities. During the disturbance the cry "loot the foreigners' houses" was raised.

A proclamation vilifying missionaries was issued in the name of the local *hien*, who on the matter being strongly represented to him promised to issue another proclamation contradicting the former one.

A deputation of scholars waited on the *hien* and informed him that they meditated mischief against foreigners. The magistrate told them if they proceeded to any violence he would have to punish them.

The Catholic Mission in the city was demolished by rioters on the 7th day of the 9th moon.

The village residence of the missionaries, 15 li distant from the city, was threatened, the 10th of the month being fixed for the assault.

The Imperial proclamation was not heard of either at Nan-ang or She Ki-chen.

Chen-chia Prefecture.—Placards were posted up naming a date for the murder of Dr. Taylor and Mr. Ford. The magistrate refused to have the documents removed.

Notwithstanding the riots at Nanchang on our right and Nan-ang on our left, Laohokeo is considered safe.

HONGKONG.

The colony is shortly to lose one of its officials who can be least spared, Sir Fielding Clarke, the Chief Justice, having accepted the Chief Justiceship of Jamaica. On Thursday the Legislative Council held a rather interesting meeting. Some dissatisfaction has been expressed amongst the Chinese owing to the strict and sudden re-enforcement of the light and pass regulations.

The new Chinese torpedo gunboat *Feiyang*, built at Stettin, arrived on Friday. She has already been fully described in our columns.

A Chinese druggist trading in Queen's Road West was fined \$25 at the Police Court on Friday for selling Manila lottery tickets on his premises.

There were 2,011 visitors to the City Hall Museum last week, of whom 172 were Europeans.

It is notified in the *Gazette* that the Queen's exequatur has been issued empowering Don H. Gonzalez del Castillo to act as Vice-Consul for Spain at Hongkong.

It is notified in the *Gazette* that Her Majesty has not been advised to exercise her power of disallowance with respect to the Ordinance for regulating the licensing of private vehicles.

At the regular meeting of the United Service lodge, No. 1341, held on Saturday night, W. Bro. W. C. H. Hastings was elected W. M., W. Bro. H. J. Watson was elected treasurer, and Bro. J. Maxwell, tyler.

It is very unfortunate that the meeting of the Legislative Council and the annual regatta clash this week. Doubtless when the Council was adjourned until Thursday the regatta was overlooked by the Government.

The Secretary of the Punjom Mining Co., Limited, advises us that he has received the following cable from the mine, being the result of the November crushing:—"The mill ran 27 days, crushing 1,000 tons yielding 500 ounces of gold."

On Friday morning Mr. G. P. Lammert sold by auction in one lot the hull of the *Wandering Jew* with masts, spars, yards, and standing rigging, with one anchor and cable down. The lot was knocked down for \$7,800. Various other lots, consisting of sails, running gear, anchors, cables, boats, &c., fetched very good prices.

Twelve griffins were drawn for on Monday at Mr. Kennedy's stables with the following results:—Bay, Mr. Lewis; grey, Mr. Roger; iron grey, Mr. L. G. Leroux; dun, Mr. R. M. Grey; chestnut, Mr. Bruce; marble grey, Lord Conyngham; cream, Mr. Hohnke; grey, Mr. R. M. Gray; grey, Lieut. Colonel The O'Gorman; grey, Mr. Bruce; black, Captain Radclyffe; chestnut, Dr. Lowson.

A German sailor fell asleep at the Happy Valley on Saturday morning, and a coolie took advantage of the man's somnolent condition by cutting open his trousers' pocket with a knife and stealing \$2.40, a pipe, and a knife. The prisoner endeavoured to prove an *alibi*, but it was palpable that he was telling a lie and as he had been previously convicted he was sent to gaol for six months with hard labour.

On Friday afternoon considerable excitement was caused in Lower Albert Road by the sudden bolting of a pony which was attached to a trap. Two females were in the vehicle and at one time it seemed almost certain that they would be seriously injured, but fortunately the *mafoo* with commendable promptness caught hold of the frightened pony's head and brought him to a standstill, but not before the trap had come in violent contact with a tree. The ladies jumped off, and escaped uninjured, but the trap was badly damaged, one of the shafts being snapped off. The pony was not hurt.

The following returns of the average amount of bank notes in circulation and of specie in reserve in Hongkong, during the month ended 20th November, as certified by the Managers of the respective Banks, are published:—

Banks.	Average amount.	Specie in reserve.
Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China...	\$ 1,757,062	\$ 1,000,000
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.	4,684,170	2,500,000
National Bank of China, Limited	406,987	212,000
Total	6,848,219	3,712,000

A very enjoyable smoking concert was given at the City Club on Saturday night, and the members turned up in full strength. Mr. J. P. Cottam presided and was also one of the contributors to the harmony of the evening. The remaining gentlemen who took part were Messrs. W. Hughes, who gave a vigorous rendering of Rudyard Kipling's "Tommy Atkins," for which an encore was loudly demanded, J. P. Duncan, F. Watts, P. R. Wilson, J. Loble, H. B. Bridger, and W. Jackson. Mr. Donnenberg acted as accompanist. Mr. G. E. Goodwin was called upon for a stump speech, which was sidesplitting, and the company then broke up. The concert was a great success, and Mr. Cottam is to be congratulated upon having organised such a good programme.

Admiral Buller was to leave Singapore on the 30th November in the despatch boat *Alacrity* for Sandakan, and will probably spend some time in North Borneo.

The O. S. S. Co.'s steamer *Teucer*, with drafts for the garrison, arrived on Friday. The following is a list of the officers and men brought out by her:—*Royal Artillery*—Major P. B. Hanham, Mrs. Hanham, 25 men, 3 women, 2 children. *Royal Engineers*—Captain Carey, Mrs. Carey, and Lieut. Bannerman, 51 men, 8 women, 12 children. *Rifle Brigade*—Captain Baker-Carr, Lieut. Holland, 153 men, 1 woman, 1 child. *Army Pay Department*—Captain Dyson. *Army Medical Staff*—Surgeon-Major Hayes, D.S.O., and Mrs. Hayes; Surgeon-Major Johnston, Mrs. Johnston, and child; Surgeon-Captains Brown and Edey. *Medical Staff Corps*—10 men, 1 woman, 1 child. *Ordnance Store Department*—Lieut. Heaton, Mrs. Heaton, and 4 children. *Ordnance Store Corps*—5 men, 1 woman.

CANTON NOTES.

[FROM THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO."]

On the 26th ultimo the widow and sons of the late Tan Chung-lun left Canton by one of the steamers belonging to the China Merchants' Steam Navigation Company for Shanghai and from thence will proceed to their native province, Hunan.

The local magistrates have issued a joint notification to the effect that owing to the non-arrest of the leaders, Yang-ku-wan and Soon-man, in connection with the recent attempted insurrection, a reward of \$1,000 has been offered for catching each of them.

The kidnapper named Leung Sang, who was arrested for kidnapping a boat-girl and killing a policeman as already reported, was brought before the Provincial Judge the other day. The prisoner was defended by a good number of influential San-sz, who said that he was innocent, but the kai-fong people protested that if he, as the real murderer and kidnapper, was not convicted, the people would no longer hire policemen at their own expense for the defence of the place, for in that case the policemen will not exert themselves to effect any arrest of criminals in future. The Judge therefore passed sentence of death.

On the 24th ultimo, before dawn, two boats left Fatshan for Canton. Before they had got far from Fatshan a piratical boat came up and cleared away all the valuables in them.

Liu Yung-tu, the Black Flag chief, calls on the Viceroy and the other officers every day. He is carried in a chair borne by two coolies, with four soldiers walking in front and two behind. It is said that Admiral Cheng Shao-chung will soon go to Peking to ask for an audience of the Emperor, and the Government will probably appoint Liu to fill the important vacancy.

A notorious robber named Li-man is now carrying on his depredations and doing whatever he likes in Loong-kong, a busy place in the district of Sun-tak, and the local officers are obliged to pretend to be blind and deaf. He demands that each junk plying between Loong-kong and other places shall pay him forty taels a month, otherwise the junk is to be destroyed. In fact he is more powerful than the officials there.

On the 25th ultimo a fire broke out in Honan in a samshu shop. Ten neighbouring houses were reduced to ashes. Four men were arrested for committing theft during the fire.

NEWCHWANG.

20th November.

In spite of a splendid harvest we are having a very tame finish as regards shipping business, due mainly to the overgrasping propensities of dealers in produce up country. Relying on the number of charters effected and feeling confident that shippers would be compelled to buy, they endeavoured by a last grand coup to make up for the slackness prevailing generally last spring, and raised prices to a standard beyond all precedent. It takes a very smart man, however, to ride roughshod over the Chinese shipper, and the old saying "when Greek meets Greek" was well exemplified. For

a short time charterers struggled on, hoping for better times, but the last straw was added and judging it better to cancel and pay freight than to buy at the ruinous rates charged, several of the natives shippers informed their southern friends of the facts of the case, recommending cancellation. Up-country dealers deserve, however, more sympathy than one is disposed at first sight to grant; taking the difficulties they have had to contend with into consideration their conduct is by no means quite inexcusable, though they are to be blamed for carrying things as far as they have done. Comparatively speaking we have had an unusually dry year and the water beyond Tienchuangtai is in consequence so shallow as to necessitate discharging the produce into smaller boats in order to enable cargo boats to cross bars and banks, usually at a sufficient depth to allow the latter to pass fully laden.

In addition to this, blackmail has been going on to a very serious extent. Several deserters from defeated Chinese regiments have availed themselves of opportunities presented by the entire absence of any attempt at control or supervision over the district, and arming themselves with the rifles and ammunition left on the battle field at Tienchuangtai, levy regular sums from boats passing. Resistance on the part of the boatmen means confiscation of their clothing and all belongings of any value, and consequently blackmail is paid without question. Liaoyang dealers have had therefore some excuse for their rather high-handed proceedings, unfortunate though the result has been, and no doubt by this time they have fully experienced the feelings of the possessor of a certain goose with golden eggs.

I am glad to see that in spite of the very logical arguments advanced by some re the inutility of docking gunboats in Newchwang (arguments by-the-by put forward by those who dwell in more southern climes) it has been considered advisable to place H.M.S. *Rattler* here for our protection during the winter months. As, from all accounts, the Japanese will evacuate the port about the end of January, there is, or rather would have been, a possibility of a little unpleasantness, if the Chinese soldiers entered before the civil authorities were firmly established.

Most of the missionaries have returned to their stations, where they will presumably spend the winter. No one outside their own immediate circle has a sincerer respect for the theory and ostensible object of their work than myself, but I must say it seems astounding to me that men knowing the nature of the Celestial as they should, still apparently consider it a right and proper thing to take their wives and children into the heart of the interior. Can they imagine for one moment that the events of last winter are calculated to soften the Chinese hearts towards intruders? The Red Cross Hospital certainly did a great deal towards showing Chinamen that foreigners have their uses, but how long will that impression last, and how far has it penetrated? I have no wish to be thought a croaker or to suggest dangers where none exist, but history has very plainly proved that all great undertakings demand the sacrifice of a certain number of lives, and therefore I say, let the wily Celestial practise his brutality on toughened muscles, more especially as our humane Government seems to shrink from exacting blood for blood.

Most of us have seen the so-called lion-tamer put his head in the beast's mouth, and though we strongly disapprove of encouraging a morbid taste for such exhibitions we generally make use of the argument "if he chooses to take the risk it's no affair of ours." Show me the man, however, who would dare, before a civilised audience, to take his children into the cage and expose them to the same risk! And yet this very spectacle, or something extremely like it, is now presented to the eyes of an audience of all the European Powers, and the dissentient voices would be drowned by an ordinary round of hisses at a provincial music hall.—*N. C. Daily News*.

A serious accident happened on the 26th ult. at Tientsin to Lieut. Rogers, of the *Linnet*. He was thrown on the back of his head when out-riding; fortunately a friend was with him and he was promptly taken to the hospital.

MISCELLANEOUS.

It is reported that the late Queen of Korea had embraced the Roman Catholic faith a short time before her murder.

The Saigon *Progrès Commercial* says the Customs employés at that port have made a seizure of a hundred kilogrammes of contraband opium on the steamer *Siam*, which will result in several thousand dollars reward to the discoverers, who are elated at the find.

H.M.S. *Spartan* took advantage of the spring tide and went up to the settlement at Shanghai on the 2nd inst. The *Mercury* says:—She now lies opposite the Bund, at the British Naval Buoy, and is the finest man-of-war that has formed a feature of the river for a considerable length of time.

The *N. C. Daily News* says:—As the French Municipality have been unable to make better terms with the Waterworks Company, they have decided to construct waterworks of their own. The land has already been purchased for the purpose and is situated above the junk anchorage and below the Arsenal.

A correspondent writing from Peking on the 24th November states, according to the *Mercury*:—"The missionary memorial to the Tsungli Yamen was presented a week ago. The missionaries have seen the members of the Yamen twice, besides conversing with several of them privately." Our contemporary does not say what the character of the memorial is.

The *Hyogo News* of the 2nd inst. says:—The *Taiwan-maru's* long trip from Takao to Ujina has ended safely and is accounted for by her sheltering through a severe storm at Ishigaki Island. Meantime four vessels were specially despatched in search of her from different points over different routes, and others were deflected from their proper courses for a like purpose. Moreover the Japanese Consul in Hongkong was already taking additional steps among foreign shipping companies. Her passengers (soldiers of the Guard) and crew were unhurt.

In its notice of the Caledonian Ball at Shanghai the *N. C. Daily News* says:—When the ladies had departed the second supper took place, the proceedings being enlivened with much excellent music. Some ninety guests and hosts remained for this function. Mr. Buyers being in the chair. Some excellent speeches were made, notably one by Mr. Fullarton Henderson in returning thanks for the guests, proposed by Mr. R. M. Campbell. Among the singers were Messrs. Bates, Dr. Cooper, Gumpert, and Sutherland, and it was not until 6 a.m. that an adjournment was made to the Bund, where a reel was danced to the dulcet strains of the pipes, and the ball was closed for the year.

A native paper reports that the seventh son of Chang Chih-tung met with his death through accident. The report that he committed suicide is found to be untrue. Young Chang took great interest in composing poetry and on various occasions invited his associates to his garden, where poetry was the chief item of entertainment. It happened that he was alone in his garden the night when he met his death, and as usual was composing poetry and at the same time admiring the beautiful scenery around him and occasionally glancing at the sky, when he missed his footing and fell into the pond. Cries of help were soon heard by the gardener, who immediately went to assist. Chang was dragged out of the water, but too late to be of any avail, and he died the next morning. He was a good scholar and had passed the Suitsai examination at his early age. It is said that many others have lost their lives in this pond and young Chang is the latest victim.—*Mercury*.

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO GREAT BRITAIN.

	1895-96 lbs.	1894-95 lbs.
Canton and Macao	6,912,824	6,797,828
Amoy	414,884	719,368
Foochow	11,175,408	14,357,248
Shanghai and Hankow	19,355,905	19,845,786
	38,479,021	41,760,230

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1895-96 lbs.	1894-95 lbs.
Amoy	10,775,947	15,496,196
Foochow	6,066,651	4,626,555
Shanghai	26,615,804	22,890,202
	43,458,402	43,012,953

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO ODESSA.

	1895-96 lbs.	1894-95 lbs.
Hankow and Shanghai	27,240,863	22,555,223

EXPORT OF TEA FROM JAPAN TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1895-96 lbs.	1894-95 lbs.
Yokohama	28,830,449	26,929,986
Kobe	17,871,446	14,660,393
	46,701,895	41,590,379

SILK.

SHANGHAI, 5th December.—(From Messrs. Crompton and Burkill's circular.)—London telegrams dated the 5th inst. report the market "quiet." Gold Kiling 8/3, Blue Elephant 10/9. Raw Silk.—Business during the week has been quiet. Native dealers remain firm and are not prepared to make any material reduction, notwithstanding the large stock which is on hand. Tsattees.—Only one buyer has been in the market on the basis of Tls. 343½ for Gold Kiling, and Tls. 380 for Mountain 4. Taysams.—Are not in demand and we only hear of one transaction in 9/12 Moss Double Butterfly No. 1 at Tls. 327½. Yellow Silks.—Are in fair demand for India and the Straits, at rates which show no material change. Arrivals, as per Customs Returns from the 28th November to the 4th current, are 380 bales of White, 125 bales of Yellow, and 193 bales of Wild Silk. Re-reels and Filature.—There is no business to report either in Filatures or Re-reels. The outgoing American mail took 635 bales for New York, which are old contracts. Wild Silks.—We hear of no business. Waste Silk.—There is some more enquiry for this article. Roman Waste No. 1 has been taken at Tls. 59 to 63, and some Woosieh Pierced Cocoons at Tls. 54. Pongees.—Some 5,600 pieces Shantung Pongees have changed hands at prices varying from Tls. 1.80 to 3.25.

Purchases include:—Tsattees.—Red Pagoda 3 at Tls. 437½, Mountain 4 at Tls. 380, do. 5 at Tls. 340, Bird Yinling at Tls. 375, Gold Lion at Tls. 371½, Gold Kiling at Tls. 343½, Siebings Quong-foong at Tls. 340. Taysam.—9/12 Moss Double Butterfly 1 at Tls. 327½. Skeins.—Lee-yang Double Man 3 at Tls. 275, Chingyung at Tls. 235. Yellow Silk.—Meeyang at Tls. 240.

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO EUROPE.

	1895-96 bales.	1894-95 bales.
Shanghai	40,026	26,664
Canton	10,868	8,051
Yokohama	13,124	9,751
	64,018	44,466

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO AMERICA.

	1895-96 bales.	1894-95 bales.
Canton	7,522	4,860
Shanghai	6,557	5,325
Yokohama	18,727	12,005
	32,806	22,190

CAMPION.

HONGKONG, 10th December.—No fresh supplies have come forward lately and prices are still advancing. Quotations for Formosa are \$86.00 to \$86.50. During the past week sales have been 150 piculs.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 10th December.—A large demand has been experienced from the North and the improvement in prices continues. Following are the quotations:—

Shekloong, No. 1, White	\$7.57 to 7.70 per picul.
do. 2, White	7.06 to 7.10 "
Shekloong, No. 1, Brown	4.93 to 4.96 "
do. 2, Brown	4.70 to 4.72 "
Swatow, No. 1, White	7.45 to 7.48 "
do. 2, White	6.93 to 6.95 "
do. 1, Brown	4.83 to 4.85 "

Swatow, No. 2, Brown... 4.70 to 4.72 per pol
Foochow Sugar Candy.....12.11 to 12.13 ..
Shekloong .. 11.02 to 11.05 ..

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

The P. & O. steamer *Java*, Hongkong to London, 4th December, took:—20 cases Cigars, 8,000 bales Hemp, 1 case Sundries, 1,675 rolls Matting, 546 bales Waste Silk, 103 bales Pierced Cocoons, 100 bales Feathers, 100 cases Palm Leaf Fans, 8 cases Blackwoodware, 10 cases Cristles, 100 casks Soy, 684 casks Preserves, 251 boxes Preserves, 31 packages Sundries, 11,475 boxes Tea (82,509 lbs. Congou, 153,888 Scented Caper, 2,478 Scented Orange Pekoe (unknown).

The P. & O. steamer *Khedive*, Hongkong to Manchester, 5th December, took:—145 bales Waste Silk; for London:—6 cases Silk Piece Goods and 195 packages Tea (4,892 lbs. Congou); for Gibraltar:—3 cases Cigars and 1 case Silk Piece Goods; for France:—140 bales Raw Silk and 2 bales Hair.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 10th December.—Bengal.—There has been a small advance in rates owing to the drop in the exchange on India. Current rates are \$775 for New Patna, 767½ for New Benares, \$780 for last year's Old Benares, and \$710 for Old Benares.

Malwa.—A small amount of business has passed in this drug during the period under review without any noteworthy change in prices. The following are the latest figures:—

New\$700 with allowance of 0 to 1 catty.
Old (2/4 yrs.)\$710 .. 0 to 1½ ..
.. (5/6 yrs.)\$720 .. 0 to 1½ ..
Older\$730 .. 1 to 1½ ..

Persian.—There has been very little demand for this opium, rates for which have slightly weakened. Oily closing at \$650 to \$700, and Paper-wrapped at \$700 to \$815 according to quality.

To-day's stocks are given as under:—

New Patna	1,410 chests.
New Benares	60 ..
Old Benares.....	640 ..
Malwa	700 ..
Persian	640 ..

COURSE OF THE HONGKONG OPIUM MARKET.

DATE.	PATNA.		BENARES.		MALWA.	
	New.	Old.	New.	Old.	New.	Old.
1895.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Dec. 5	760	—	765	777 710	700/710	720/730
Dec. 6	760	—	760	765 710	700	710 720/730
Dec. 7	760	—	757½	765 705	700/710	720/730
Dec. 8	765	—	762½	770 705	700	710 720 730
Dec. 9	765	—	760	770 700	700/710	720 730
Dec. 10	775	—	760	780 710	700	710 720/730

RICE.

HONGKONG, 10th December. A further improvement in rates has to be reported. Closing quotations are:—

	per picul.
Saigon, Ordinary	2.07 to 2.10
.. Round, good quality	2.37 to 2.39
.. Long	2.45 to 2.48
Siam, Field, mill cleaned, No. 2 ..	2.15 to 2.17
.. Garden, .. No. 1 ..	2.50 to 2.53
Siam White.....	2.92 to 2.95
.. Fine Cargo	3.04 to 3.07

COALS.

HONGKONG, 10th December.—Market keeps fairly steady. Sales reported are 2,500 tons Japanese at \$4.50 to \$5.55. Quotations are:—

Cardiff	\$12.00 to 13.00 ex ship, nominal.
Australian ..	8.00 to 8.50 ex gdn., sales.
Milke Lump...	5.75 to 6.90 ex ship, nominal.
Milke Small...	5.00 to 5.25 ex ship, nominal.
Noji Lump ..	4.00 to 5.50 ex ship, nominal.
Kebae Lump...	6.00 to 7.00 ex ship, nominal.
Kebae Small...	4.00 to 4.50 ex ship, nominal.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 10th December.—Amongst the sales reported are the following:—

YARN AND PIECE GOODS:—Bombay Yarn.—25 bales No. 6 at \$68, 345 bales No. 10 at \$1.50 to \$78.50, 350 bales No. 12 at \$70.50 to \$78, 115 bales No. 16 at \$82 to \$90, 455 bales No. 20 at \$85 to \$80. Grey Shirtings.—250 pieces 11 lbs. Flower at \$3.15, 250 pieces 10 lbs. Tree at \$3.65.

White Shirtings—150 pieces E. F. at \$6.75, 500 pieces No. 3 at \$3.17½. T-Cloths.—1,500 pieces 8 lbs. V.V. at \$2.87½, 600 pieces 8 lbs. X.X. at 2.92½, 1,120 pieces 7 lbs. Gold Dog at \$2.15, 3,750 pieces 7 lbs. Mexican 4 Stags at \$2.20, 600 pieces 8 lbs. Hunter and Stag G. C. at \$3. Drills.—150 pieces 14 lbs. G. T. Wo Hee at \$3.60.

METALS.—Lead.—170 piculs Australia at \$6.50. Tin.—150 slabs Siam at \$35.25. Quick-silver.—170 flasks at \$114 to \$115.

COTTON YARN.

	per bale
Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20	\$64.00 to \$88.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24	102.00 to 106.00
.. 22 to 24	105.00 to 110.00
.. 28 to 32	110.00 to 115.00
.. 38 to 42	119.00 to 127.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	per piece
Grey Shirtings—6lbs.	1.40 to 1.55
7lbs.	1.90 to 2.10
8.4 lbs.	2.15 to 3.10
9 to 10 lbs.	3.20 to 4.00
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd.	2.20 to 2.45
58 to 60 ..	2.60 to 3.20
64 to 66 ..	3.30 to 3.70
Fine	4.00 to 6.50
Book-folds.	2.90 to 5.20
Victoria Lawns—12 yards ...	0.62 to 1.28
T-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.) Ord'y.	1.45 to 1.60
7lbs. (32 ..) ..	1.85 to 2.00
6lbs. (32 ..) Mexs.	1.60 to 1.75
7lbs. (32 ..) ..	2.10 to 2.40
8 to 8½lbs. (36 in.)	2.35 to 3.10
Drills, English—40 yds. 13½ to 14lbs.	3.20 to 4.30

FANCY COTTONS

	per yard
Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ to 5lbs.	1.40 to 3.0
Brocades—Dyed	3.85 to 4.70
Damasks.....	0.14 to 0.18
Chintzes—Assorted	0.08 to 0.12
Velvets—Black, 22 in.	0.22 to 0.30
Velveteens—18 in.	0.18 to 0.21
Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk ..	0.45 to 0.90

WOOLLENS

	per yard
Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops.	0.60 to 0.95
German	1.00 to 1.15
Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths.	1.25 to 2.70
Long Ells—Scarlet	6.50 to 7.80
Assorted	6.60 to 7.90
Camlets—Assorted	14.00 to 30.50
Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches, Assorted ..	14.00 to 22.00
Orleans—Plain	3.80 to 5.10
Blankets—8 to 12lbs.	4.70 to 9.50

METALS

	per picul
Iron—Nail Rod	2.95 to —
Square, Flat Round Bar ..	2.92½ to 2.95
Swedish Bar	4.40 to —
Small Round Rod	3.40 to —
Hoop	4.10 to —
Old Wire Rope	3.00 to —
Lead, L. B. & Co. and Hole Chop ..	6.50 to —
Yellow Metal—Muntz, 14/28 oz.	26.00 to —
Vivian's, 16/32 oz.	25.50 to —
Elliot's, 16/28 oz.	25.50 to —
Japan Copper, Slabs	24.50 to —
Tiles	24.50 to —
Tin	36.50 to 37.00
Tin-Plates	5.45 to —
Steel ..	5.50 to —

SUNDRIES

	per box
Quicksilver	114.00 to —
Window Glass	3.25 to —
Kerosene Oil	2.05 to 2.07½

SHANGHAI, 5th December.—(From Mr. Geo. W. Noel's report.)—Contrary to all expectation the weather has, up to date, kept very mild both here and in the North, and the steamers continue running, in fact are advertised to leave up to the 7th instant, although the natives prognosticate that the Peiho will close on the 10th of this month. There is very little in the way of Piece Goods being sent up at present, however, the steamers relying on their return freights, which are large but cannot be very valuable, or else not intended for re-export, as the Banks are complaining of the almost entire absence of private paper, and are in consequence drawing much

under the normal rate as compared with silver. This does not assist holders in meeting the views of buyers, and has caused business this week to be distinctly quieter in spot cargo, the River dealers not having come in yet, although there are signs of more activity in that direction. There continues to be considerable enquiry for goods for delivery after the New Year settling, but Importers for the most part prefer not to enter into transactions on those terms at present, though it is rumoured that in one or two quarters it has been done to a very fair extent. The nature of the business, however, has not transpired, but it probably consists of goods that were bought in Manchester when prices were much more reasonable than they have been for the last month or two. Neither the private business reported nor the particulars of the Auction Sales give a very elated impression of the buoyancy of this market, which appears to remain just midway between the high prices ruling at home and those prevailing in the consuming districts. There is a good enquiry still for Sheetings, but all the cheap parcels have been cleared off the market. Clearances continue satisfactory; the goods, however, are being stored and are not going into immediate consumption in the majority of cases, the natives, apparently, being able to finance them with greater facility than usual. This will make a considerable difference in the stock returns at the end of the year, so it is hoped the Chamber of Commerce will endeavour to get the Piece Goods Guild to make an approximate return of the goods held by natives, that are in their own or the Steamer godowns, for the mutual benefit of all concerned in the trade, as was suggested last June.

Metals and Miscellaneous.—(From Mr. Alex Bielfeld's Report)—6th December:—As usual at this season when Newchwang and the northern ports are about to close the general tone is quiet in Metals. Lead has advanced still further and L.B. is now quoted at £12.16.0 c.i.f. and may yet go still higher. No sales are reported. Nail-roads.—Nothing has been done on this side, and yet in spite of the absence of orders values have advanced, quotations being Sobiers 109/c.i.f., Alliance 108/, Goffin 112/, and the general opinion is that a further advance is very probable. A demand appears to be growing for the better qualities of Iron both in Bars and Rods and several fair contracts, I hear, have been made for English makes. The only other transactions I hear of are:—25 tons Bale Hoops, private terms; 200 cases Corrugated Sheet Iron, private terms; 500/600 tons Bar Iron, private terms, Scrap Material.—Heavy arrivals of Horse-shoes, have confirmed the depression in local values, although the holders at home show no sign of giving way in their ideas of price. About 300 tons Shoes (Liverpool) have been booked at 81/6 c.i.f. Plate Cuttings have been sold to extent of 500 tons at 86/6 and another 200 tons different sizes at 78-6 c.i.f. 100 tons Old Hoops at 68/ c.i.f. This trade in Scrap is developing quickly, and shortly, if importers will only combine, they will be able to offer sufficient inducement for a line of steamers to sign for the weight of Scrap shipped on tendering official weight certificates. I hear that this shortage question is still a burning one, the Conference lines taking the illogical stand that a bill of lading for a quantity said to weigh 100 tons entitles the ship to freight on 100 tons without return, but does not entitle the consignee to a single ton of the material shipped as the ship is not responsible for weight.

JOINT STOCK SHARES.

HONGKONG, 10th December.—"Flat, stale, and unprofitable" best describes the state of the market for the week under review. In the absence of business, rates, with some few exceptions, have remained fairly steady. We have nothing of any importance to report.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have remained nearly a dead letter, a few very small parcels only having changed hands at 181 per cent. prem. A few could be placed forward at something under the equivalent of the cash rate, but holders refuse to part on those terms. Market closes at 181 per cent. premium. Nationals have receded to \$28 with no business.

MARINE INSURANCES.—China Traders have changed hands \$73½ and \$73, closing steady at latter rate. Unions after further sales at \$200 are obtainable at the rate. The demand for Cantons continuing rates have risen to \$195, with sales at that and \$192½. In other Marine stock we have nothing to report.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs have further advanced to \$260 with sales. Chinas have

changed hands at \$87 and \$87½, closing steady at latter rate.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton, and Macao were done at \$36 and \$36½, closing with sellers. Indo-Chinas have ruled steady with sales at \$57. Douglas's with several lots on offer have declined to \$53, after sales at \$54. China Mutuals have been enquired for at quotations, but we have heard of no sales.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have advanced another point to \$112 with sales and close firm at that rate. Luzons continue neglected.

DOCKS, WHARFS, AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have ruled quiet with small sales at 147 per cent. prem., closing weakish. Kowloon Wharfs have changed hands at \$47, \$47½, and \$48, and a sale is reported at \$48½. We have nothing else to report under this heading.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—Lands have ruled steady with small sales at \$68½ and \$69. Hotels have found buyers at \$20, and Kowloon Lands at \$16. West Points are still enquired for at \$19 without bringing out sellers.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Island Cements have been negotiated at \$17 and close steady. Watsons have again changed hands at \$12, closing with sellers. Electrics have found buyers at \$6½ and \$6¾, but more shares are obtainable at the latter rate. Dairy Farms have changed hands in small lots at \$10; we hear that the Company has done very well for the year, showing an amount of \$18,000 for division, and that they intend paying a dividend of 10 per cent. Fenwicks have changed hands at \$19 and \$19½, and Ewo Cotton Mills at Tls. 40 (in Shanghai).

Closing quotations are as follow:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		
Hongkong & Shanghai	\$125	181 p. ct. prem., nominal
China & Japan, prf.	...	nominal
Do. ordinary	£1	nominal
Do. deferred	£1	£2, buyers
Natl. Bank of China		
R. Shares	£8	\$28
Foun. Shares	£1	\$105, sellers
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	15s.	\$10½
Brown & Co., H. G.	\$50	\$7, sellers
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$3, buyers
Carmichael & Co.	\$20	\$10, sellers
China Sugar	\$100	\$112, sales & buyers
Chinese Loan '86 E.	Tls. 250	10 p. ct. prem.
Dakin, Cruickshank & Co.	\$5	\$1
Dairy Farm Co.	\$10	\$10
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$20	\$20
Green Island Cement	\$55	\$17, sellers
H. Brick and Cement	\$12½	\$7, sales & buyers
H. & C. Bakery	\$50	\$36
Hongkong & C. Gas	\$10	\$100, buyers
Hongkong Electric	£8	\$6½, sales & sellers
H. H. L. Tramways	\$100	\$90
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$20, sales
Hongkong Ice	\$50	\$90, sellers
H. & K. Wharf & Co.	\$50	\$18
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$150, sellers
H. & W. Dock	\$125	147 p. ct. prem.
Insurance—		
Canton	\$50	\$195, sales & buyers
China Fire	\$50	\$87½, buyers
China Traders	\$25	\$73, sales & buyers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$260, sales & sellers
North-China	£25	Tls. 225, sellers
Straits	\$20	\$25, sellers
Union	\$25	\$200
Yangtze	\$30	\$119, buyers
Land and Building—		
H. Land Investment	\$50	\$68½, sales & sellers
Humphreys Estate	\$10	\$9½
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$16, sales & buyers
West Point Building	\$40	\$19, buyers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$60, sellers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 500	\$85
Jelebu	£5	\$3, sellers
New Balmoral	£3	\$3, sales & sellers
Punjum	£4	\$5½, sales
Do. (Preference)	£1	\$1.60, sellers
Rauts	18s. 10d.	\$3.75, buyers
Steamship Coys.—		
China and Manila	\$50	\$71
China Shippers	£5	£2.10
Douglas S. S. Co.	\$50	\$53
H. Canton and M.	\$20	\$36½, sales
Indo-China S. N.	£10	\$57, buyers
Wanchai Warehouse Co.	\$37½	\$42, sellers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$12, sales & sellers

CHATER & VERNON, Share Brokers.

SHANGHAI, 6th December.—(From Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Report.)—The business done during the week has been small. Bank.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.—On the 28th ultimo shares were purchased from Hongkong at 184, and some local shares were placed at 185 per cent. premium, since which no business has been reported. Our latest quotation from Hongkong is 182 per cent. premium. The London rate is unchanged at £41. National Bank shares have sold in Hongkong at \$29, and are offering there at that price. Shipping.—Indo-China S. N. shares were sold at Tls. 42.25, and a sale of Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat shares is reported at \$36.75. Docks.—Shares in S. C. Farham & Co. have been placed at Tls. 187½. In Hongkong, Hongkong and Whampoa Dock shares have changed hands at 147 per cent. premium. We quote 14½ as the closing rate. Marine Insurance.—Hongkong are wanted at \$255. Chinas have been sold at \$90 and \$89. There are sellers at \$89. Wharves.—A small lot of Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf shares was sold at Tls. 312½, but this rate was not maintained, shares having since been procured at Tls. 306. Tugs & Cargo Boats.—Shanghai Tug Boat shares were sold at Tls. 135, Shanghai Cargo Boats at 11s. 200, and Co-operatives at Tls. 180. Sugar companies.—China Sugar Refining shares were sold to Hongkong at \$110. Luzons have advanced to \$60 in Hongkong. The annual meeting of the Perak Sugar Cultivation Co. is called for the 20th current. Factories.—Ewo Cotton S. & W. shares have been parted with at Tls. 4½. A call on the International shares was due on the 2nd instant. Shares were sold at Tls. 22½ on the 29th ultimo. Miscellaneous.—The Shanghai-Sumatra Tobacco Co. has declared a further interim dividend of 15 per cent. for the season 1894, payable on the 16th current. Shares are wanted on line. Shanghai-Langkai Tobacco shares have been placed at Tls. 240, for delivery on the 31st March. Hall and Holtz shares have been placed at \$25 each and \$2½ for 31st January. Debentures.—Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf Debentures were placed at Tls. 110, plus the accrued interest.

TUESDAY, 10th December. CLOSING QUOTATIONS. EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	2/1½
Bank Bills, on demand	2/1½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	2/1½
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	2/1½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2/2
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	2/2½
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	2.68
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2.74
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	2.17
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	52
Credits, 60 days' sight	53½
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	184½
Bank, on demand	184½
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	184½
Bank, on demand	184½
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	72½
Private, 30 days' sight	73½
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	par.
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	6 ½ pm.
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	par.
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	47.70

TONNAGE.

SHANGHAI, 6th December (from Messrs. Wheelock & Co.'s report)—Nothing of interest has occurred in our homeward freight market since our last issue, and there is little of interest to report, beyond the visit of a non-Conference steamer which has called in and taken a small quantity of cargo for New York at a very much lower rate than Conference rates. The Peiho River is expected to close about the 10th inst., so that whatever produce happens to be in Tientsin must come forward at once or not at all. There have been fairly large engagements from the North for New York, but after the departure of the present loading steamer, the amount of cargo to go forward must materially decrease, considering that the tea season is quickly drawing to a close, and that steamers will be dependent almost entirely on odds and ends for the next three or four months. For

New York *via* Cape.—With a scarcity of local tonnage, and an unusual amount of cargo awaiting shipment in Hongkong, shippers have met with difficulty in obtaining space in the *Emily F. Whitney*, whose cargo had been previously prepared for her, and also in ships loading at the southern port, but their requirements appear to have been satisfied with the assistance of the *John R. Kelly*. The *Torrisdale* loading at Hongkong is fully engaged there and cannot take anything from this. The *Whitney* expects to leave here about 15th inst., her original intention being to call at Hongkong, but at present it is uncertain if she will do so. Provided the *Torrisdale* can load and sail this month, thus fulfilling the *Whitney's* "December sailing" engagements in the south, the latter will sail direct from here for home. Rates of freight are:—From Shanghai to London by Conference Line, general cargo 40s.; waste silk 45s.; tea 50s.; Northern Continental ports, general cargo 42s. 6d.; waste silk 45s.; tea 50s.; New York, general cargo 40s.; tea 40s.; New York *via* London, general cargo 50s.; tea 50s.; Boston, general cargo 52s. 6d.; Philadelphia, general cargo 60s. Above rates are subject to a deferred return, as per Conference circular. London by Shell Line, general cargo 40s. less 10 per cent.; Hamburg, general cargo 35s. net; New York, general cargo 40s. less 10 per cent. Havre direct, general cargo 37s. 6d. net; Genoa, tallow 35s., general cargo 40s. net; Marseilles, tallow 35s., general cargo 37s. 6d. net. 45s. per ton of 20 cwt. for above three ports. New York by rail 25s.; New York by Pacific Lines, tea 1½ cent gold. Coast rates are:—Mojito to Shanghai \$1.20 per ton coal nominal; Nagasaki to Shanghai \$1.10 per ton coal nominal. No disengaged vessel in port.

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

For LONDON.—*Malacca* (str.), *Ulysses* (str.), *Benlawers* (str.), *Telamon* (str.), *Rohilla* (str.), *Moyune* (str.), *Trocas* (str.), *Ceylon* (str.).
For BREMEN.—*Sachsen* (str.).
For SAN FRANCISCO.—*Peru* (str.), *Coptic* (str.), *Brodrick Castle*.
For VANCOUVER.—*Empress of Japan* (str.).
For VICTORIA.—*Hankow* (str.).
For NEW YORK.—*Monmouthshire* (str.), *Bangloe* (str.), *E. F. Whitney*, *Torrisdale*, *John R. Kelly*.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

HONGKONG.

December—
ARRIVALS:
4, Foochow, British str., from Wuhu.
5, Whampoa, British str., from Shanghai.
5, Boynton, British str., from Japan.
5, Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.
5, Fushun, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
5, Orient, German bark, from Whampoa.
6, Lion, French gunboat, from Swatow.
6, St. Louis, French str., from Manila.
6, Cromarty, British str., from Samouang.
6, Hailow, British str., from Canton.
6, Lyceum, German str., from Shanghai.
6, Maifoo, Chinese str., from Canton.
6, Namoa, British str., from Swatow.
6, Siam, British str., from Saigon.
6, Tencer, British str., from Liverpool.
6, Oslo, Norw. str., from Haiphong.
6, Daphne, German str., from Canton.
6, Fei Ying, Chinese cruiser, from Stettin.
6, Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
6, Alice Mary, British bk., from Whampoa.
6, Loksang, British str., from Chinkiang.
6, Osaka, British bark, from Whampoa.
7, Maria Valerie, Austrian str., from Kobe.
7, Devawongse, British str., from Bangkok.
7, Taisang, British str., from Shanghai.
7, Activ, Danish str., from Pakhoi.
7, Lightning, British str., from Calcutta.
7, Amigo, German str., from Bangkok.
7, Cosmopolit, German str., from Pakhoi.
7, Hohenzollern, German str., from Japan.
7, Nanyong, British str., from Singapore.
7, Sabine Rickmers, Ger. str., from Amoy.
7, Tetartos, German str., from Samarang.
7, Tritos, German str., from Saigon.
8, Amur, British str., from Swatow.
8, Benlawers, British str., from Foochow.
8, Hailoong, British str., from Tamsui.
8, Feiching, British str., from Canton.
8, Nanyang, German str., from Canton.
8, P. C. C. Klao, British str., from Bangkok.
8, Picciola, German str., from Saigon.
8, Preussen, German str., from Shanghai.
8, Taicheong, German str., from Aroe Bay.
8, Zafiro, British str., from Manila.

8, Tweed, British g.-bt., from Foochow.
 8, Reina Cristina, Spanish cr., from Manila.
 9, Chwnshan, British str., from Java.
 9, Taksang, British str., from Canton.
 9, Amoy, German str., from Amoy.
 9, Sungkiang, British str., from Manila.
 9, Woosung, British str., from Canton.
 9, Yarra, French str., from Shanghai.
 10, Benledi, British str., from London.
 10, Peru, Amr. str., from San Francisco.
 10, Deuterios, German str., from Bangkok.
 10, Euplectela, British str., from Shanghai.
 10, Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.
 10, Strathallan, British str., from Hongay.
 10, Ulysses, British str., from Shanghai.
 10, Mercury, British cruiser, from Saigon.
 10, Argy, British str., from Moji.
 10, Amy Turner, Amr. bark, from Honolulu.
 10, Kansu, British str., from Chinkiang.
 10, Kwongmo, British str., from Amoy.
 10, Arcona, German corv., from Amoy.

December— DEPARTURES.

5, Nanyang, German str., for Canton.
 5, Rio, German str., for Amoy.
 5, Taksang, British str., for Canton.
 5, Thales, British str., for Swatow.
 5, Brunhilde, German str., for Bangkok.
 5, Chelydra, British str., for Calcutta.
 5, Foochow, British str., for Canton.
 5, Germania, German str., for Moji.
 5, Khedive, British str., for Europe.
 5, Sagami Maru, Jap. str., for V'vostock.
 5, Whampoa, British str., for Canton.
 6, Afaidi, British str., for San Francisco.
 6, Ask, Danish str., for Haiphong.
 6, Devonhurst, British str., for Yokohama.
 6, Fushun, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 6, Hertha, German str., for Yokohama.
 6, Chabarovsk, Rus. str., for Singapore.
 6, Hoihow, British str., for Shanghai.
 6, Manila, British str., for Shanghai.
 6, Triumph, German str., for Hoihow.
 6, Verona, British str., for Yokohama.
 6, Engelhorn, British bark, for N. York.
 6, Matterhorn, British bark, for N. York.
 6, W. H. Talbot, Amr. sch., for S. F. cisco.
 7, Boynton, British str., for Kutchinotzu.
 7, Bisagno, Italian str., for Singapore.
 7, Marie Jeben, German str., for Tournon.
 7, Irene, German str., for Hamburg.
 7, Teviotdale, British str., for N. York.
 7, Wing Hong, British str., for Swatow.
 7, Lokaang, British str., for Canton.
 7, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Canton.
 7, Lyeemoon, German str., for Canton.
 8, Taisang, British str., for Canton.
 8, Daphne, German str., for Shanghai.
 8, Hongkong, French str., for Haiphong.
 8, Namoa, British str., for Swatow.
 8, Phra Nang, British str., for Bangkok.
 8, Siegmund, German str., for Shanghai.
 8, Yuensang, British str., for Manila.
 8, J. Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Saigon.
 9, Feiyang, Chinese cruiser, for Foochow.
 9, Guthrie, British str., for Australia.
 9, Kongalf, Norw. str., for Gorantalo.
 9, Meifoo, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 9, Nanyong, British str., for Amoy.
 9, Preussen, German str., for Europe.
 9, Teucer, British str., for Shanghai.
 9, Taksang, British str., for Swatow.
 10, Activ, Danish str., for Hoihow.
 10, Amur, British str., for Swatow.
 10, Benlawers, British str., for London.
 10, China, German str., for Saigon.
 10, Siam, British str., for Swatow.
 10, Woosung, British str., for Samarang.
 10, Cosmopolit, German str., for Hoihow.
 10, Hailong, British str., for Tamsui.
 10, Marie Jeben, German str., for Saigon.
 10, Lion, French gunboat, for Saigon.

SHANGHAI.

November— ARRIVALS.
 30, Empress of Japan, Bri. str., from V'couver.
 30, Pechili, British str., from Tientsin.
 30, Empress of India, Brit. str., from H'kong.
 30, Normandie, Norw. str., from Nagasaki.

December—
 1, Nagato Maru, Jap. str., from Nagasaki.
 1, Hsinyu, Chinese str., from Tientsin.
 1, Taisang, British str., from Hongkong.
 1, Kwangchi, Chinese str., from Chefoo.
 1, Euplectela, British str., from Japan.
 1, Trocas, British str., from Hongkong.
 1, Glenfarg, British str., from London.
 2, Lienshing, British str., from Tientsin.
 2, Hangchow, British str., from Amoy.

2, Pronto, German str., from Kutchinotzu.
 2, Comete, French g.-bt., from River Ports.
 2, Trym, Norw. str., from Hakodate.
 3, Oxus, French str., from Hongkong.
 3, Tungchow, British str., from Tientsin.
 3, Kweilin, British str., from Tientsin.
 3, Bengloe, British str., from Kobe.
 3, Telamon, British str., from Liverpool.
 4, Rosetta, British str., from Hongkong.
 4, Hunan, British str., from Tientsin.
 4, Donau, Norw. str., from Kobe.
 4, Mazagon, British str., from Hongkong.
 4, Japan, British str., from London.

November— DEPARTURES.

30, Khedive, British str., for Hongkong.
 30, Haeen, Chinese str., for Tientsin.
 30, Fungshun, Chinese str., for Amoy.
 30, Feiching, British str., for Hongkong.
 30, Rheingold, German str., for Vladivostock.
 30, Nierstein, German str., for Nagasaki.
 30, Glengarry, British str., for Cebu.
 30, Adowa, British str., for Chinkiang.
 30, Prinzess Wilhelm, German cr., for Chefoo.
 30, Empress of India, Brit. str., for V'couver.
 30, Empress of Japan, Brit. str., for H'kong.

December—

1, Yungping, Chinese str., for Tientsin.
 1, Vladimir, Russian str., for Vladivostock.
 1, Pechili, British str., for Tientsin.
 1, Kashing, British str., for Amoy.
 1, Whampoa, British str., for Hongkong.
 1, Kwongsang, British str., for Chefoo.
 1, Hsinfung, Chinese str., for Tientsin.
 1, Leeyuen, Chinese str., for Chefoo.
 1, Produce, Norw. str., for Kobe.
 1, Krim, Norw. str., for Kobe.
 3, Haeshin, Chinese str., for Foochow.
 3, Hsinyu, Chinese str., for Tientsin.
 3, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Hongkong.
 3, Lyeemoon, German str., for Hongkong.
 3, Taisang, British str., for Swatow.
 3, Wosang, British str., for Tientsin.
 3, Benlawers, British str., for London.
 3, Agamemnon, British str., for Japan.
 3, Hangchow, British str., for Wuhu.
 3, Oxus, French str., for Japan.
 4, Nagato Maru, Japanese str., for Japan.
 4, Pronto, German str., for Kutchinotzu.
 4, Darra, British bark, for Puget Sound.
 4, Normandie, Norw. str., for Kobe.
 4, Tungchow, British str., for Tientsin.
 4, Lienshing, British str., for Tientsin.

PASSENGER LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per Hertha, str., from Hamburg, &c.—Mr. Waruholtz.
 Per Namoa, str., from Swatow.—Dr. Stechel.
 Per Lyeemoon, str., from Shanghai.—Mr. and Mrs. Tertaltoba. Messrs. Gropé, Nünster, Langen, Pereiro, Mrs. Isaki Tomyson.
 Per Teucer, str., from Liverpool, &c.—276 Troops, including Officers.
 Per Taisang, str., from Shanghai, &c.—Miss Loureiro, Mr. Voight, and Master Brenen.
 Per Lightning, str., from Calcutta, &c.—Mr. and Mrs. Taylor and two children, Rev. Geo. and Mrs. Morrison and two children, Messrs. Pigott and Tait.
 Per Hailong, str., from Tamsui, &c.—Mr. C. Whistler, Dr. and Mrs. Layng.
 Per Zafiro, str., from Manila.—Messrs. G. B. Webster and Marangon.
 Per Preussen, str., from Shanghai.—Messrs. F. Scudder, A. K. Rhoden, Kanehl, Schneider, and Nappe.
 Per Hohenzollern, str., from Japan.—Capt. Harrassowitz, Miss G. Waller, Messrs. K. Watanabe, G. M. Reynolds, R. Bierstadt, J. Kruse, R. Dahl, P. Nielsen, W. Kraemer, A. Shaw, Armstrong, Geo. Weir, Turner, McDonald, Peter Stewart, McLeod, Schmidt, and Schulze.
 Per Sunghiang, str., from Manila.—Mr. Sackerman.

DEPARTED.

Per Oanfa, str., for Singapore.—Mr. W. Kendall.
 Per Namoa, str., for Swatow.—Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Munro.
 Per Victoria, str., for Shanghai.—Messrs. Henri Bloton and D. Ahmed. For Kobe.—Mr. E. Martin. For Victoria, B.C.—Mr. P. F. Emerson. For Port Townsend.—Mrs. Li Good Sen and Miss Ah Ho.

Per Java, for London from Hongkong.—Mr. Leaf. From Yokohama.—Miss Stevens, Mr. A. C. Holden, Mr. and Mrs. T. F. Lai-ken. From Shanghai.—Mrs. A. Wise and child, Mr. Talbot Browning. From Foochow, for Singapore.—Mr. and Mrs. Spencer Lewis and 2 children.

Per Khedive, from Hongkong for Singapore.—Col. Romanoff, Lieut. Romanoff, and Mr. A. Hendry. For Penang.—Sir G. D. Elphinstone. For Bombay.—Messrs. S. F. Mehta, C. Lalmia. For Ismailia.—Mr. John Baur, Mr. and Mrs. J. F. How, Mr. L. How, and Miss Lionberger. For London.—Mr. Thos. H. Hooper, R.N., Commander I. H. W. Theed, R.N., Messrs Theodore Lindenberg and C. R. Lindenberg, Misses Helena Greeley and Anna M. Greeley. Col. E. H. Gilman, and Mr. J. D. Shafer. From Yokohama for Ismailia, via India.—Mr. D. T. Curtin, Messrs. P. A. MacDermott, J. J. Dillon, P. Moore, and T. Spalding. For London.—Mr. W. Dickinson. From Kobe for Bombay.—Messrs. E. Hayes, St. Lydiard, Vanzeller, Gardner, MacDonald, Smith, Wallin, Ordish, and Quin. For Ismailia via India.—Mr. and Mrs. B. F. Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton and child, Mr. W. A. Longden, Mr. and Mrs. L. Chick, and Mrs. L. L. Smith. For Brindisi via India.—Messrs. Rowe and H. C. Williams, Mrs. A. C. Williams, Mr. R. Slater. For London.—Mr. W. Webb, Capt. E. G. Andrews. From Shanghai for Bombay.—Messrs. A. Moses, D. Abdoorally and A. F. Bretto. For London via Marseilles.—Messrs. Pelham Warren and W. W. Dickinson.

Per Thales, str., for Swatow.—Dr. and Mrs. Lyall, and Dr. Dalziel. For Taiwanfoo.—Dr. and Mrs. Anderson.

Per Sagami Maru, str., for Chefoo.—Mrs. Bailey.

Per Ask, str., for Haiphong.—Mr. D. Chafeon-lop.

Per Chelydra, str., for Singapore.—Capt. Pre-sidder, C.M.G., Capt. Chichester, and Mr. S. J. Kilby. For Penang.—Mr. Song Chong Chai.

Per Verond, str., for Kobe from Hongkong.—Mrs. H. Collins, Mr. J. Oda, Misses A. Petersen and Sylva. From London.—Mr. Akroyd, and Miss Sanders. For Yokohama from London. Rev. H. Woodward, Misses Simson, Head, Peacock, and Robertson. From Bombay.—Mr. F. J. Parrott. From Singapore.—Mr. Josef V. Koonach Bayern.

Per Hoihow, str., for Shanghai.—Professor and Mrs. Loissette.

Per Yuensang, str., for Amoy.—Mrs. Beckenham and Mr. F. S. Unwin. For Manila.—Mr. F. W. Stapleton, Madame de Colletet.

Per Namod, str., for Swatow.—Mr. Dipple.

Per Teucer, str., for Shanghai.—Mr. Wheeley.

Per Maria Valerie, str., for Singapore.—Mr. G. A. Wilde.

Per Guthrie, str., for Australia.—Mrs. Nolan, Mrs. Hamilton, Miss Mackay, Miss E. Tatley, Messrs. W. Tatley, A. L. Silly, D. E. McConnell, and J. Seddon, Mr. and Mrs. Sato.

Per Preussen, str., from Shanghai for Ham-burg.—Capt. Tofte, Messrs. F. C. Hansen, N. Jacobsen, C. Andersen, J. Nielsen, C. Gangot, W. Andersen, A. Gutman, C. Holst, A. Mogen-sen, C. Jensen, A. Skriever, H. Hammer, and O. Wemmergren. For Antwerp.—Mr. L. Hansen. For Genoa.—Messrs. E. Zeigmeister and H. Jagemann. For Singapore.—Mr. A. Siemssen. From Yokohama for Southampton.—Miss G. Waller, Messrs. E. M. Reynolds, Geo. Weir, J. Turner, McDonald, P. Stewart, and McLeod. For Bremen.—Mr. K. Watanabe. For Co-lombo.—Mr. Chavan. From Kobe for South-ampton.—Messrs. A. Shaw and Armstrong. For Bremen.—Capt. Harrassowitz, Messrs. Bielstadt, Dahl, Kruse, Nielson, Kraemer, Schmids, and Schulze. From Hongkong for Bremen.—Messrs. C. A. Thorbjornsen, Nielsen, A. Gutlig, O. C. Hansen, B. A. Sansse, O. Achperg, Gose-dowsko, Main, Wenck, Lutschevitz, Neurenten, and Keil. For Genoa.—Rev. and Mrs. Thom-son, Messrs. K. Lukowski, and J. B. Coughtrie. For Suez.—Mr. James Gregor. For Colombo.—Mr. and Mrs. D. H. Grant, Miss Scott, Miss Mourse, Messrs. R. de la Poer, James, Bishop, J. H. Waller, and Master Jamessn. For Co-lombo.—Miss E. Walden and Miss L. B. Goff. For Singapore.—Mrs. D. Ahl, Miss Pomeroy, Mr. and Mrs. Hatch, Messrs. L. D. Ahl, Spaulding, C. Konigsberger, O. Frause, E. Konigs-berger, and Rev. A. McLean.